

Newsletter

September / October 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, *Fellowship*
Malinda Abraham, *Fellowship*
Karen Anderson, *Worship*
Chris Fox, *Outreach*
Patty Fox, *Outreach*
Patricia Jue, *Altar Guild & Regathering*
Mark Linderman, *Property Management*
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

Gathering Anew

The COVID-19 forced exile from our church building has led us to gather anew. We worship as community through Zoom, learning once again that God is present everywhere. We work to keep in touch, by telephone, and during virtual coffee hour. Our choir once again sings "together" thanks to the talents of Richard Lloyd, our minister of music and the "magic" of digital mixing. Parish members join us from Florida, Maine and other far flung places, and we welcome our guests from the North Country. We have been blessed; God is good.

The Office of the Bishop of the Diocese of Central New York has approved our Covenants of Regathering Anew. These pledges of how we plan to share God's love and hope while helping to slow the spread of COVID-19 can be viewed at <https://stjamesclinton.org/coronavirus1>. We are slowly inviting people back into our building, in phases, prioritizing groups that cannot function remotely. The St. James' Day School will start in early September. We hope to bring AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) back in late September. Both groups met the Diocesan category of essential outreach groups.

As Episcopalians, we are a sacramental people longing to be physically in the same place, and be in the presence of the Eucharistic table. We held our first outdoor service on Saturday August 22 at St. Margaret's House, New Hartford. We hope to hold a few more outdoor services while the weather remains good. Meanwhile, the Regathering Committee and representatives of the Worship Committee are paving the way to fully hybrid indoor worship services in our little yellow building on Williams Street. This is more complex than the typical livestream. It will take time, as we enhance our digital infrastructure, and re-envision our worship services.

This COVID-19 induced pause might be a good time to reflect on what we, as St. James, are called to become. What does worship look like in a world of physical distancing and mask wearing, and no singing? How do we ensure that those joining us digitally are incorporated as worshipers, not just as silent onlookers? What new mission opportunities might the Holy Spirit lead us to? How will we experience God's love for us, and our love for each other: love in the time of COVID and beyond? Scripture is all about new beginnings. Surely, God will be with us, as we open up this new chapter of St. James, Clinton. May we give thanks for what was, and may we move forward in trust and gentleness, as we continue our journey ingathering anew.

Patricia Kay Jue, *Chair of the Regathering Committee*

What is St. James Doing in Response to COVID-19?

Everyone on the premises, outside and inside, must wear a face mask that covers the mouth and nose at all times, and maintain 6 foot distancing.

Our Sexton Mustafa ("Mujo") Salkic continues to clean and maintain the building and grounds. Areas used by groups will be disinfected before and after each meeting. All "high touch" surfaces are disinfected regularly.

Our office administrator, Caitlin Richer, continues to work from home. She checks e-mail and voice mail regularly as well as posted items.

We are in the process of installing touchless sanitizer dispensers throughout the building and touchless soap dispensers by all sinks.

We are keeping a log of everyone entering the building - at this stage, only our staff and essential volunteers. Per NYS guidelines, each visitor attests they have not been diagnosed with COVID-19, do not have COVID-19 symptoms and do not meet any other NYS COVID-19 criteria that would bar them from entry.

More information is in our Reopening Safety Plan. This plan can be viewed at <https://stjamesclinton.org/coronavirus1> It is also posted in the back of the church, the lobby of the parish hall and the entrance of the Day School.

Many thanks

We recognize the Regathering Committee for their hard work and commitment. Thank you to Karen Anderson, David Hermann, Ted Johnson, Patricia Jue (chair), Mark Linderman, and Kate Marquardt, and to our Wardens, Chris Fox and Wendy Weber. This group has met weekly by Zoom since June 18. Assuming all continues as planned, they hope to take a break for part of September so they can return reinvigorated. You can contact the Committee at regathering@stjamesclinton.org

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.

How Can I Help?

We have some funds to cover the enhanced A/V system. However, we welcome financial donations. Send to St. James, Clinton, indicating the funds are to be used for A/V. When we receive funds that exceed the cost of the equipment, they will be used to maintain the items, and support our enhanced digital connectivity, and on-line presence.

Karen Anderson has been our Zoom host for most of the services. We seek volunteers to make up a team of Zoom hosts who will rotate duties similar to the Lectors and Readers; "digital deacons" if you will. Required - reliable internet connection, reasonable familiarity with your computer, comfort level with basic software; training provided. Contact Karen Anderson, either directly or through the church office if you are interested.

Church Directory

St. James has an on-line password protected directory for active



WELCOME

to St. James' Episcopal Church

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

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 other directory admins, Kathy Collett and Patricia Jue.

Update from our Vestry

A few weeks ago, we wrote to you that the pandemic has allowed us to be more creative in our search for a new priest. The Vestry has taken on the role that it once delegated to the search committee, and has worked closely with the diocese and with an interview team made up of fellow parishioners to help with the process.

After our recent virtual Vestry meeting, we can now report to you that we are getting closer to the end of the search process and have identified a wonderful pastoral candidate whom we believe will be an excellent fit for St. James. We still have to sign a Letter of Agreement and have it approved by Bishop DeDe. By its very nature, the search process must remain confidential, but we hope that we'll be able to share some joyful news with you soon.

In the meantime, as with all things in this age of COVID-19, the Vestry continues to meet via Zoom, learning and adapting as we go. One thing we have not forgotten, however, is that while all of us at St. James miss being together in church, and we miss the Eucharist, the singing, the fellowship dinners and other gatherings, we know that this is a time to be what the church really is -- a time to reach out to others, to keep others in our prayers, and to help those who need our assistance.

We hope that you are successfully adjusting to this most unusual period, both physically and spiritually. Please join us in a prayer for the parish: *"Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."* (Book of Common Prayer, p. 817)

Chris Fox, Sr. Warden

June Meeting Highlights

The June vestry meeting was held via Zoom on June 17, 2020. The vestry approved signing up for the Community Solar Project, and passed the revised 2020 Budget. An update was given from the Regathering Committee. The vestry agreed to create an anti-racism statement and invite the Clinton Area Ministerium to partake in a community statement.

July Meeting Highlights

The July vestry meeting was held via Zoom on July 15, 2020. The Regathering Committee discussed updates, including the need to submit Covenants for Regathering to the diocese for approval. Committee meeting minutes were given to the vestry. Mark Linderman has become the chair of Property Management. Issues with the property were discussed and Caitlin will provide information from previous meetings to Mark Linderman.

August 5 Special Vestry Meeting Highlights

A special meeting of the vestry took place via Zoom on August 5, 2020. The vestry unanimously passed motions to submit two Covenants for Regathering; one for building use, and the other for outdoor gatherings. The vestry also unanimously passed motions to allow essential outreach groups such as the St. James' Church Day School and Alcoholics Anonymous to begin using the building with contingencies.

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.

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.



Don't Stop Thinking about Tomorrow...

Dear Friends at St. James,

Now that we are into our fall calendar planning, it is time to look ahead to Stewardship conversations as our Vestry begins its discerning and forecasting for the 2021 church budget.

Romans 8:12 states "I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us." Adapting to pandemic months of separation, while learning to engage and celebrate our community through virtual church gatherings, hopefully becomes more tolerable when we consider what "glory" is ahead for us in the coming year.

When Wardens Chris Fox and Wendy Weber asked me to lead the fall Stewardship campaign, I took a few days to reflect upon the many blessings that Jan and I and my family have received from being part of the St. James family. Choir, Youth Groups, Fellowship Dinners, Outreach Projects, Spiritual Reflection and Discussion Groups; the list goes on and on for us.

Gratitude for these many blessings is the reason that I am willing to lead our church community's Stewardship campaign this fall. I am convinced that "the St. James family" will continue to be a central source of spiritual and community engagement for us, and for many others, in the months and years to come. I believe in the power of alignment, and I invite each of you to align your expression of gratitude with prayerful consideration of renewing (and hopefully increasing) your 2021 pledge to St. James.

During September, I hope to empower a stewardship team of folks who are willing to gently share their visions of future "glories" and to dream about the alignment of gratitude and stewardship, and our future needs and opportunities! I look forward to talking with you soon!

And if Paul's words to the Christians in Rome are too old fashioned for you, listen to the message shared by the iconic rock band Fleetwood Mac in their song "Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow"!

Prayerfully Yours,
Randy Wilson
Stewardship Chairperson

*I consider the sufferings of this present time
are not worth comparing with the glory
about to be revealed to us*

Romans 8: 12

St. James' Church Day School



The St. James' Church Wardens and the Day School Board have agreed that a class with a maximum of 10 students with 2 teachers is reasonable for the 2020-21 school year.

We are happy to welcome back Alycia Rondo as a teacher and welcome Arianna Drissi as the new co-teacher. Alycia has been involved in the Day School for the past eight years; both as a parent of four Day School graduates and as a teacher. Alycia has been a substitute teacher and lunch bunch teacher since 2017 and knows the program well. Arianna is a Clinton native and has returned home due to COVID after living and working in Europe post college. She has had experience with 4 year olds and school age children. Arianna brings enthusiasm and positive energy to the program.

With the COVID-19 virus continuing to affect everyone's lives, we are hopeful that a pre-school experience for our students will give them some normalcy with in-person play-time and learning time at St. James' Day School. We feel fortunate to have a secluded, safe space that can be sanitized daily. We also believe that a small number of students with two teachers is healthy and feasible during this pandemic.

Thank you so much to the re-gathering committee, the church wardens and all the St. James' Church community for the continued support of the Day School. The preschool experience that is offered at St. James' Church is so important for young children to get ready for kindergarten; plus the opportunity to learn how to get along with others and to be thoughtful and kind is needed in the world today.

Day School Wish List

Wish List Items for Day School:

Tall Kitchen garbage bags

Ziploc bags (quart, snack, gallon sizes)

Staples gift card for art supplies

paper towel rolls

kleenex boxes

Homemade playdough ingredients: cream of tartar, food coloring, salt, flour

There will be a in inside of our lovely red front doors for donations.

Men's Discussion Group

**will resume meeting
on Friday mornings at 8:30am
starting September 4**

If you interesting in checking in with us, let Randy Wilson (randyw7150@gmail.com) know! Alistair Campbell is our zoom virtual meeting host. We are still deciding what book or other discussion media source we will focus on during September.

All are welcome to reconnect now that we are moving beyond "summer mode"!

Treasurer's Corner

This is my first Vestry term in a number of years. When we needed a new Treasurer this year the Vestry asked me to do it again (I previously served 5 years when Ray and Jenny were Rectors). I immediately turned to Jan Wilson and Patty Fox for help, and they are serving as full-charge Bookkeeper and Accounts Receivable/Payable, respectively. Our small team provides important financial reporting to the Vestry. But we can use help, so if you would like to join us please raise your hand!

I am reporting to the Congregation that St. James is a financially viable institution and can fulfill our mission. Because of your support and generosity, our budget is balanced, we have the wherewithal to call a new priest, and we have a real future to look forward to.

That's not to say we don't have challenges. If I may speak personally, I'm recovering from a difficult relationships with our 2 previous Rectors. Your experiences are surely just as personal, but the fact that you (and I) are still parishioners speaks our truth. I only want to recognize our traumas because it is our path to healing: our first challenge.

The second challenge I see is parish growth. We are blessed with bequests that has pushed our endowment to almost \$2M (thank you to not only our donors, but the Finance Committee for their stewardship). From that we take about \$50K annually, about ¼ of our budget. I wish to recognize our previous Vestry's restraint in preserving our principal that benefits us today, but we need to look towards building an even more vibrant community. 20 years ago we had about 120 families and now we have about 60. This is a complicated problem; I expect we'll focus and work with the Diocese to address it.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize our parish leadership for their accomplishments this year. Our Wardens (Chris and Wendy) have responded very creatively to trying times. Patricia Jue has led our response to the Covid19 pandemic with internal controls and a plan for our future. Her recent \$10K motion, approved by the vestry, to invest in audio/visual kit to include remote parishioners when we get back to "normal" is not only innovative; it is the first step for us being a national or international community. That's pretty cool and we can thank Patricia and her committee for proposing new ideas for how "church" might be different for us going forward.

In closing, I'd like to express reassurance. Our Wardens are committed. Our finances are sound. Our Vestry is working really hard. I think we are a church that invites everyone to participate as they can, and I hope you will join in as you can!

Respectfully,

Mike Baldwin, *Treasurer*

Diocesan Events

Back-to-School Prayer Service

Tuesday, September 1, 7:00-8:00 pm

Students, parents/guardians, teachers, and school employees! Please join us for a youth-led, diocese-wide, online Back-to-School prayer service on Tuesday, September 1st at 7:00 p.m. Let's wrap our students, families, teachers, and other school employees in prayer as, amidst uncertainty and challenge, we face a new school year together.

How to join: After you [register here](#), you'll receive information on how to join the worship service via Zoom. If you'd like to help plan or lead the service, please contact Ms. Erin Moore at roserin22@gmail.com.

Roundtable: Speaking, preaching, and teaching anti-racism

Thursday, September 10, noon-1:00 pm

You're invited to join Canon Carrie on Thursday, September 10th from noon to 1:00 p.m. for a roundtable discussion on using our preaching, teaching, and speaking to help dismantle racism. Please bring your questions, favorite resources, and openness to new ideas as we share where we struggle and what has worked. This is a very broad invitation: all parishioners, clergy and anti-racists welcome!

Please register [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Learning Communities Initiative 2020 Workshop #3: Reflect

Saturday, September 26

Each of the three 2020 Learning Communities Initiative workshops will focus on one step of the Listen-Act-Reflect model. Each time, you'll come away with concrete action steps to strengthen your congregations' relationships with God, your neighbors, and one another. Additional details and registration will be posted [here](#).

St. James' E-newsletter

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

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

Summer Series Online Workshops

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

Being Safe and Prepared

Wednesday, September 16, 6:30-8:00 pm

One of our responsibilities as Christians is to prepare ourselves, our families, and our parishes to be safe and prepared for life's eventualities so we can assist ourselves and others.

This interactive workshop will provide an overview of security precautions and common-sense preparations for potential disaster events.

We cannot make you experts in a 75-minute workshop, but we can get you thinking and provide some useful resources.

Presenters: The Rev. Thomas R. Margrave and Mr. Michael Hardin

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

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

Dr. Brené 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](#)



Diocesan E-newsletter

Sign up for the Diocesan e-newsletter to stay up to date with information! To sign up [click here](#).

September Server Schedule

Date	Lectors
Sat. 9/5 4:00 pm	Nancy Taylor Patricia Jue
Sun. 9/6 9:30 am	Diane Baldwin Blair Jones
Sat. 9/12 4:00 pm	Wendy Weber Matt Weber
Sun. 9/13 9:30 am	Jackie Medina Gail Prentice
Sat. 9/19 4:00 pm	Dick Compson Joan Compson
Sun. 9/20 9:30 am	David Hermann Barbara Swetman
Sat. 9/26 4:00 pm	Patty Fox Chris Fox
Sun. 9/27 9:30 am	Randy Wilson Mary Lou Iles
Sat. 10/3 4:00 pm	Matt Weber Nancy Taylor
Sun. 10/4 9:30 am	Kathy Collett Brian Collett

St. James' holds first in-person service since March

On Saturday, August 22 St James' held it's first in-person worship service since March. Following the approval of a Covenant for Gathering Anew: Outdoor Gatherings, St. James' leadership was able to plan an outdoor in-person service held at St. Margaret's House in New Hartford. The outdoor service was limited to 25 attendees, including a celebrant and readers, and physical distancing and mask wearing were required. Father John Crosswaite presided the service with Gail Prentice and Nancy Taylor as lector and lay eucharistic minister.



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.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

- St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787 (prayer to be used when one is not able to partake of the bread or wine)

Rocks for Love

Throughout the summer, youth members of St. James' painted rocks with inspirational words, abstract designs, and lovely landscapes. Volunteers held several fundraisers during The Farmer's Market on Thursdays to raise funds for The Country Pantry. In exchange for their donations, people were invited to take a hand-painted rock for their garden or windowsill as a small 'thank-you' for their donation.



The next fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 10 am-1 pm.

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!](#)

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 enhance your personal worship.

The Country Pantry

Following the August 3 food distribution, the shelves at The Country Pantry were bare to allow for a professional cleaning of their space. They are currently asking for donations to help restock their shelves.

Food donations can be dropped off at the Pantry door (Church of the Annunciation, 7616 East South Street, Clark Mills, NY 13321), Hunt Realty in Clinton, Clinton Arena, State Farm Insurance on Rt. 233, or the Kirkland Town Library. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated and can be mailed to: The Country Pantry, P.O. Box 76, Clinton, NY 13323.

Monetary donations are used to purchase food from the Food Bank of Central New York and to help pay for refrigerated trucks that bring donation of perishable food on distribution days.



Outreach News

The Outreach Committee met on August 23 after church, via Zoom. The committee discussed the local participation in the Rise Against Hunger (RAH) initiative, in which we've taken part the past few years. The representative from the Clinton United Methodist church, which spearheads the local effort, has informed us that the event is scheduled for October 3rd, and, as of now, is still expected to happen. The local group has been in touch with RAH as well as the Clinton Central School (CCS) administrators regarding protocol in light of COVID 19.



RAH has added several new guidelines at events in order to abide by social distancing, mask wearing, and other CDC suggested guidelines. CCS is still willing at this time to allow the group to use its HS gym for the event. The group will be required to provide the school with a written plan that follows CDC guidelines (just as St. James is currently doing with its plans for the Diocese). We will keep everyone apprised of the status of the event, for those who wish to participate.

Since we had not planned on this event happening, and due to other complications caused by the virus, the Outreach committee and St. James have not held any fundraisers for the event. However, the committee approved to donate \$1000 from its budget to the initiative.

The committee also voted to donate another \$2000 to the Country Pantry. (We had given \$1000 earlier this spring.) We applaud the amazing and vital work that the Pantry does to assist our local neighbors.

If anyone wishes to donate to either of these worthwhile causes, please send a check to the church, made out to St. James, and with a notation on the memo line of "Country Pantry" or "Rise Against Hunger."

September / October 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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