

From St. James' With Love

Corner of Lake and Main

P.O. Box 249 Hammondsport, New York 14840

November – December 2020 Newsletter

St James Vision Statement: God asks us to make His love visible in our lives and community. . . . let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:18)

From the Rector's Corner

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

Dear Friends in Christ,

I don't know about you, but this year seems a little . . . well, different. No doubt COVID has turned the world on its head – travel plans cancelled, Zoom weddings, the economy is topsy turvey, students, teachers and parents have had to adjust in major ways and we mourn the students who seem to be left behind, as we mourn for those who have died. Add to that a Presidential election year in a country where we seem to take sides and widen the divide with every breath. We've run through 27 Tropical and Sub-Tropical Storms starting with Arthur and racing through Zeta. Record breaking wildfires continue to blacken the west. Every conversation feels like it is a loaded powder keg, and friends tiptoe around sensitive topics. I don't know what the end-times will feel like, but some have said this seems to be the precursor.

But when I get tired of all this fretting and wondering and hoping and wearing a mask, I seek refuge. I give grateful thanks that I am not in charge, and never have been. I remember there is One who has always been in charge and always will be. I give grateful thanks that when I feel lonely, I am never alone, because Emmanuel came to save us. I give grateful thanks when my mind is spinning like a NutriBullet that I can stop in my tracks and remember Philippines 4:6-7.

When we let go of the control, when we turn to the Creator, when we bring our cares, prayers, supplications, and thanksgivings to God, we *will* know a peace that surpasses all understanding. The world gets back to the right size rather than looming like King Kong above our lives. Whether this is a bump in the road, or the end of the world as we know it, for now, we are living and breathing and able to serve others.

As we enter the last weeks of the Church year and approach Thanksgiving, we are invited to pay attention and give thanks for the blessings in our lives. I invite you to create a gratitude list each night, however large or small. Write it down and turn to it when doubts overcome. As we enter Advent, the season of anticipation, let us also continue to empty our lives of the busyness, the fretting, the big plans, the extra stuff, and make room for the babe to enter into the world and our lives once again.

May you be filled with the Peace of God,
Lynne +

Annual Pledge Drive

Thank you all for your consistent generosity in considering how you give of your time, talent, and treasure to the work and ministry of St James. We invite you to begin prayerful consideration of how you will respond to this year's Pledge Drive. Look for a letter from St James the first full week of November. Ingathering Sunday is November 22nd. Pledge slips can be mailed to Donella Barney, 223 Burton St, Bath NY 14810.

Bible Study

Every Monday at 4:00 (via Zoom)

will return on Monday, November 16th

We will continue our study of the Psalms beginning with Psalm 75. Each week we read and study four Psalms. Along with prayer, discussion and reflection we often hear or sing a version of each Psalm. Everyone is invited to join us every Monday at 4 to study Scripture - no previous knowledge necessary or expected.

Bible Trivia – the Nativity

answers on last page

1. What does Jesus' other name, "Emmanuel", mean? (*Matthew 1:23*)
a) "Anointed One" b) "God with us" c) "Son of God" d) "He who is God"
2. Why did Joseph and Mary go to the city of David? (*Luke 2:4-5*)
a) to visit Joseph's parents b) to celebrate their wedding c) to seek the prophet Simeon d) to pay taxes
3. In what city was Jesus born? (*Luke 2:4-7*)
a) Bethlehem b) Nazareth c) Cyprus d) Galilee
4. What did the angel tell the shepherds? (*Luke 2:10-12*)
a) to not be afraid b) the location of the newborn Savior c) how to recognize the newborn Savior d) all of the above
5. The wise men traveled _____ to Jerusalem. (*Matthew 2:1*)
a) northward b) eastward c) southward d) westward

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:00 (via Zoom)

Join us on Wednesdays as we study the Gospel of Mark which we use in Year B (starting Advent 1). We learn some background, history, and geography along with studying the Scripture. Each week we read a Chapter broken into bite-sized pieces, dig a little deeper into the layers of meaning, and then reflect on how the Scripture informs our daily life. All are invited to participate, and you don't need to own a Bible (we will provide one) or know anything about interpreting Scripture.

Book Group

First and Third Mondays of the Month at 5:30 (via Zoom)

Resumes November 16th with Chapters 9 & 10

We are reading Joel ben Izzy's *The Beggar King and the Secret of Happiness*. This "is an altogether original true story about a storyteller who loses his voice and believes he's lost everything. An encounter with his old teacher shows him that, in fact, he's been given a great gift. Their meetings lead him on a journey into the timeless wisdom of ancient tales - a world of beggars and kings, monks and tigers, lost horses and buried treasures - and, ultimately, toward the secret of happiness." Join us every other Monday as we read a chapter or two and discuss the surprises, and how it relates to our lives. Order the book yourself or email Joan at Joanier1950@gmail.com or give her a call about ordering a copy through Amazon.

Operation Christmas Child – Samaritan's Purse

Deadline to return is November 15

Last year St James sent 38 boxes to children around the world! This year the Mission Committee has set the goal of 75 boxes. It's really simple, and fun, and a great way to share the gift of Christ with children who may not have much of a Christmas without our help.

There is plenty of information on the webpage to help you decide what to pack in a box – one fun item along with school and hygiene items. We invite you to go online and include the postage \$9 and get tracking information to find the country where your Christmas child lives. If you would rather not, the Mission Committee will cover the postage.

Or a very simple and very fun way is to use this link and have them pack the box. For \$25 you get to select boy/girl, age group, and select the items you would like included. The \$25 includes the postage and you can track the package! Simply click on the link and you will be directed to the St James "Build a Shoebox" page.

<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/goal/view/f772a8e5-9028-494d-afaa-acf49d238c90>

For more information, or to pick up and deliver boxes, call Carol Bidwell (607)664-6152 or call Luanne Graulich (607)769-2525.

With grateful hearts,
St James Mission Committee

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry – Christmas Boxes

Thank you for all the personal care and cleaning products you have donated to the Pantry. It is always needed, and appreciated. St James does not need to provide anything this year for the Thanksgiving baskets.

However, they will be packing Christmas baskets on Thursday, December 10 at 9AM at St. Gabriel's in the basement and would love to have some help with that. It usually only takes a couple of hours. If you are available and wish to help us please let Sue Lange know so that they can be sure to have the right number of people. You can contact Sue at (315) 430-9122 or at sandjlange@gmail.com.

Bible in a year

Every year several folks from St James read through the Bible in a Year. As challenging as it sounds, it is really very simple, doesn't take much time, and can bring new insights, along with plenty of questions. Email Tom Bidwell for a copy of the schedule.

Fire Protection Monitoring System

submitted by Nick Forenz

St James will be having a new fire protection monitoring system installed in December. Many thanks to the Fred and Harriet Taylor Memorial Foundation grant that is helping to cover a large portion of the cost. The system will include 30+ new devices including smoke, CO₂, and heat sensors, along with new strobe/siren units, and pull stations. The system components will be monitored 24/7 by an alarm company and we will be alerted immediately upon their receiving an alarm from one of the devices. The new system is capable of having the alarm company directly contact 911 once the County has the capability to receive that type of notification.

Virtual Giving Tree

November 22nd

'Tis almost the season and we are having a virtual tree with both personal care and cleaning items and with Christmas gifts for some families in our community. The virtual tree will go up on November 22nd and we need the gifts back for distribution on December 13th, and the personal care and cleaning items by December 13th. You will receive the list of needs by email, and you are invited to respond with the items you will donate – first to respond, gets to give that gift.

Happy Feet

submitted by Esther Covell

Collection November 15 until December 13th

We have another opportunity to show our care for our veterans, thanks to our memorial for Jane Aeschbacher. Jane was an avid volunteer here and for our veterans. At her passing her husband, Paul, continued her activity via the collection of socks for our veterans at the VAMC. To date we have given more than 3000 pairs, donated and passed on to our vets! That is a lot of 'happy feet!' The generosity of our parish is very much appreciated. I get a chuckle when presenting the socks, their eyes pop when I report the number collected. This year you can drop them off on Rev Lynne's porch at 93 Pulteney Street **after** Nov. 15th.

Greening of your homes & Manger/Creche Display

We have no way of knowing what will be happening at St James until we are closer to the date; but we will be sharing pics of our tree, or Nativity Set, or our Gingerbread Nativity Scene. Send Rev Lynne your pics and they will be shared daily from Sunday, December 20th through Epiphany, the visit of the Three Kings, on January 6th.

Christmas Eve – 7:00 p.m. (Note the time!)

Gather your family and friends to join us for the Celebration of our Savior's Birth on Thursday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. As always, this is a small service, filled with joy, candlelight, some of your favorite Christmas hymns, and the opportunity to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus.

Blessing of the Animals

In honor of St Francis and in thanksgiving for our furry companions, St James had its third Blessing of the Animals following the Sunday service on October 4th. There were a variety of dogs and cats who came to receive a blessing, as well as some photos and FB posts of pets who could not make it that day.

Looking Ahead - Reports for Annual Meeting

Please send your completed Reports to Lynne no later than Wednesday, January 20th so we can make them available to the congregation on Sunday, the 24th the week before our Annual Meeting on the 31st of January. It is our hope that people will have the chance to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest, and then at Annual Meeting have the opportunity to ask clarifying questions, and give thanks for all we have done in 2020.

Stewardship is ...ALL that we do, with ALL that we have, ALL the time.

Stewardship isn't ...

- + Fundraising.
- + Paying the light bills or maintaining a building.
- + Paying a decent staff.
- + Meeting the budget.
- + Keeping the church alive.
- + Paying our fair share of the dues.
- + Passing on a legacy to our children.

Stewardship is ...

- + Sharing in God's mission with a glad, generous and grateful heart.
- + Transforming lives in our community.
- + Prayerfully responding to God's call.
- + A deeply spiritual matter.
- + Something that blesses the giver more than the receiver.

Stewardship is discipleship; it is a complete reorientation of our lives toward God, who calls us through Jesus Christ.

Stewardship is... Everything I do after I say, "I believe."

Prayer List

Cheryl, Gene, Nicole, Brian, Sheryl, Aliza Jane and family, Douglas, Richard, Kathy, Lindsey, Tammy S., John, Muriel, Heather, Andy, Jim and Marietta, Pam, Alan, Colleen, Steve, Elaine, Adrienne, the Food Pantry, students and teachers, first responders, those suffering from addiction, and those in the military, and those who mourn.

Answers: 1. b) God with us; 2. d) to pay taxes 3. a) Bethlehem, 4. d) all of the above, 5. d) westward

Calendar

- **Compline every night at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom – email Rev Lynne for info**
- Sun, Nov 1 – All Saints’ Day – and change your clocks
- Nov 2 – Nov 14th – Rector on Vacation – no Bible or Book Study
- Sun, Nov 15 – Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due back to Carol or Luanne
- Mon, Nov 16 – 4:00 Bible Study Psalm 74, 75, 76,77
 - 5:30 Book Group – Chapters 9 & 10
- Wed, Nov 18 – 10:00 Women’s Bible Study
 - 7:00 Vestry meeting (please keep us in your prayers)
- Sun, Nov 22 – Ingathering Sunday, please return Pledge Slips to Donella Barney, 223 Burton St, Bath, NY 14810
- Mon, Nov 23 – Bible Study
- Wed, Nov 25 – 10:00 Women’s Bible Study
- Thurs, Nov 26 – Thanksgiving Day – office closed
- Mon, Nov 30 – 4:00 Bible Study
- Wed, Dec 2 – 10:00 Women’s Bible Study
- Thurs, Dec 6 – Budget Committee meets (please keep us in your prayers)
- Mon, Dec 7 – 4:00 Bible Study
 - 5:30 Book Group Chapters 11 and 12
- Wed, Dec 9 – 10:00 Women’s Bible Study
 - 7:00 Vestry Meeting (please keep us in your prayers)
- Thurs, Dec 10 – 9:00 Food Pantry to pack Christmas Boxes – contact Sue Lange if you want to sign up to help
- Mon, Dec 14 – 4:00 Bible Study
- Wed, Dec 16 – 10:00 Women’s Bible Study
- Sun, Dec 20th – Greening your home & bringing out the Creche/Nativity Set – send your pics to Rev Lynne so we can share the joyful anticipation
- Mon, Dec 21 – 4:00 Bible Study
 - 5:30 Book Group – Chapter 13 to the end
- Wed, Dec 23 – 10:00 Women’s Bible Study
- Thurs, Dec 24th – 7:00 Christmas Eve
- Sun, Dec 27th – 9:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols
- Mon Dec 28 – Thurs Dec 31 Office Closed – No Book of Bible Study

Lay Schedule

Date	Chalice	Readers
November 1	C. Skinner	S. Pulver R. Little
November 8	M. White	N. Folts D. Barney
November 15	L. Nichiporuk	S. Young K. Packard
November 22	N. Forenz	A. Edmister L. Graulich

November 29	L. Nichiporuk	S. Pulver R. Little
December 6	C. Skinner	N. Folts D. Barney
December 13	M. White	S. Young K. Packard
December 20	K. Derr	L. Graulich A. Edmister
December 24	N. Forenz	S. Pulver R. Little
December 27	L. Nichiporuk	N. Folts D. Barney

