

From St. James' With Love

Corner of Lake and Main
P.O. Box 249 Hammondsport, New York 14840

January – February 2021

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 fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. Isaiah 41:10

We live in a world that our ancestors could not have comprehended. And yet, some things are true throughout the ages: fear, disease, economic disaster, loneliness, government upheaval, depression, as well as faith, hope, joy, love, peace, and kindness. How in the world do we hold these two sets of truths not only side by side, but simultaneously in our lives?

It goes without saying that 2020 has been a harsh year for so many people, unlike most of us (but not all of us) have experienced in our lifetimes. We, as a nation, as Christians, as neighbors, as friends, as St James have at times been pushed to the limit. Where will we find relief? How do we find relief? Not even mentioning how we might begin to heal the division and discord brought about by such disruption and disorder.

And then I turn my eyes to God. The One who says, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life." (Matt 6:25). More than one hundred times in Scripture we hear, "fear not," or, "be not afraid." "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." (Ps 24:3). Twenty-one times in Scripture we hear "I am with you," including the quote above.

God knows we need His word of encouragement, strength, hope, and protection when we are in trouble, and He offers it. But why don't we hear it? Or, why don't we believe it? Or, what is it we fear? Or better yet, then how do I fill my life with faith, hope, joy, love, peace, and kindness no matter what?

There are so many suggestions I could offer – turn to your faith community, engage in Bible study, pray . . . But here are two simple suggestions that you might bring into the new year. First, a gratitude list. Every day, maybe at bedtime when you are saying your prayers, asking forgiveness, and giving thanks, we could be a bit more specific: I give thanks for this bed, warmth, the food that I had today, clean water, safety while I sleep . . .

And the second – make a God jar, box, envelope, or container. With every care, worry, or fear, say a prayer, write down your concern, and put it in the container. Put it in God's hands, and then don't take it back! Yes, we need to take action, but we don't need to be filled with fear and worry while we take the steps we can take to change a situation.

Is life really that simple? I invite you to give it a try and then let me know. Is it easy? I guess not, or we would already be living life without fear or worry. It is a choice we can make, an invitation, God's invitation that we can accept. Fear not . . . I've got you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Lynne+

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. To view or print a copy of the daily reading schedule, go to the [St James website link](#).

Bible Study

**Every Monday at 4:00 (via Zoom)
will return on Monday, January 4th**

We will continue our study of the Psalms beginning with Psalm 98. 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, and it is easy to join us as each psalm stands alone.

Women's Bible Study Wednesdays at 10:00 (via Zoom)

Join us on Wednesdays as we continue the study of 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.

Pregnancy Resource Center

The Pregnancy Resource Center of the Valleys holds its annual fund drive in January, with the ingathering on January 17th, Sanctity of Life Sunday. If you would like to contribute, using any container you have at home collect coins (or folding money). Checks or change (marked for Pregnancy Resource Center) can be sent to St James, or delivered to Rev Lynne or Carol Bidwell, or you can make a donation directly to "Pregnancy Resource Center of the Valleys" and mailed to: PRC of the Valleys, Inc, 22 Liberty St, Bath, New York 14810

Reports for Annual Meeting due January 20th

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.

Annual Meeting January 31st

St James Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 31, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom. The reports will be distributed on Sunday, January 24th by email and will include the list of nominees for open positions. The Annual Meeting will be Called to Order immediately prior to the opening hymn. Service will continue as usual with the Rector's report included as the sermon. After the closing hymn we will continue the meeting on Zoom, with Voting, Financial Reports, and an opportunity to ask questions about any of the Committee Reports. Our hope is that everyone will stay for the brief meeting prior to adjourning.

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Beginning on Ash Wednesday we will engage in the Hammondsport tradition of sharing a Noonday Service, we just have to be patient a bit longer and play it by ear if it will be on Zoom or Live, or if it will include a meal, or a to-go bag, or what.. The same is true for Ash Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. St James may have a Zoom Service with Imposition of Ashes available outside earlier or later in the day. More information to follow after the Vestry meets on February 10th.

Lenten Series

Thursdays February 18th through Thursday March 25th at 10:00

Throughout Lent, beginning on February 17th at we will engage in a Lenten Reflection and study using the Archbishop of Canterbury Lenten Book 2021. Every year the Archbishop writes, or commissions someone to write a Lenten book intended for study and reflection during the season of Lent. This year we will read and study together *Living His Story: Revealing the Extraordinary Love of God in Ordinary Ways* by Hannah Steele.

“How can we convey the love of God to our neighbours in a post-Christian world that has largely forgotten the gospel of Jesus Christ?

In *Living His Story*, the Archbishop of

Canterbury’s Lent Book 2021, Hannah Steele uncovers liberating and practical ways of sharing the gospel story afresh. With warmth and encouragement, She shows us how we can live Jesus’ story in our own lives simply by being the people God made us and allowing people to be drawn to him through our natural gifts.

Living His Story is a Lent devotional that will change

the way you think about evangelism, show how ideally suited it is for the world we live in and fill you with confidence in sharing God’s love with the people around you. Set out in six sessions to take you through Lent, each chapter of the 2021 Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent book can be used as a single study for individuals or small groups to prepare for Easter. It will help you find space to see evangelism from a new practical perspective.”

On Thursdays we will pray together, read together, reflect and engage in a discussion each week. You can order a copy through your favorite book dealer, or see Joan to order a copy from Amazon.

The book is available on Kindle \$7.99 and Paperback \$15.00. This book will be released on January 26th.

Giving Tree

This year we tried something new at St James and were overwhelmed by the generosity of spirit we have at St James! We adopted several families, and a total of nine children, who received badly needed winter coats, pajamas, clothing and toys. We also supplied the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry with nearly 300 pounds of desserts and personal care/cleaning products; and the giving continues! We are indeed blessed by the generous hearts of our parish and our community.

St James ‘socks’ it to the Bath VAMC

Jane Aeschbacher and husband Paul were active volunteers at the Bath VA, at St. James and at the Presbyterian Church. After Jane's death, in 1999, with Paul's blessing, St. James continued to collect white socks for the veterans, in Jane's memory. Including this year we have gifted the Bath VA veterans with 3246

pairs of socks! Dry, healthy feet are important to all, critical to our veterans and very much appreciated. We collected 268 pairs this year!

Bible Trivia – the number 40

answers on next to last page

1. Moses fasted 40 days in the wilderness and was given: (*Exodus 34:28*)
a) a golden calf b) 10 Commandments c) a staff d) the Tent of Meeting
2. Elijah fled Jezebel for 40 days in the wilderness and the angel fed him (*1Kings 19:5-6*)
a) honey from the rock, b) pot of broth, c) cake, 4) cheese
3. What did God give the Israelites to eat during their 40 years in the wilderness (*Exodus 16:4*)
a) cacti b) manna c) lizards d) honey from the rock
4. The Israelites were led at night for 40 years by (*Exodus 13:21*)
a) the Angel of the Lord b) a glowing sword c) the moon d) a pillar of fire
5. Which King reigned for 40 years
a) Saul b) David c) Solomon d) all of the above
6. What was the symbol for the promise God offered after 40 days of rain? (*Genesis 9:13-17*)
a) dove b) olive branch c) rainbow d) sun
7. Goliath taunted the Israelites for 40 days before David slew him with: (*1 Samuel 17:49*)
a) sling and stone b) bow and arrow c) spear d) sword

Operation Christmas Child – Samaritan’s Purse

Last year St James sent 38 boxes to children around the world! This year we sent 66 boxes! An incredible outpouring of love, and of the gospel message to children around the world. What happened after you delivered your box to Carol, Luanne, Lynne, or submitted it online? Shipping: Thousands of volunteers serve annually inspecting and preparing shoeboxes for international shipping. Every hour work stops for a few minutes to pray for the children who will receive the boxes. Worldwide Distribution: Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the message of the Gospel and bless children. The leaders learn how to host child-friendly outreach events, and how to implement The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship program.

Outreach Events: Pastors around the world host outreach events in places where people may not know Christ and invite them to follow Him. Other churches use the boxes as resources for outreach in orphanages and other at-risk areas. In many places, they also offer The Greatest Gift, a Gospel story booklet Samaritan’s Purse developed for shoebox recipients.

With grateful hearts,

St. James Mission Committee

Fire Protection Monitoring System

submitted by Nick Forenz

St James has a new fire protection monitoring system! Many thanks to a Fred and Harriet Memorial Foundation grant that is helping to cover a large portion of the cost. The system includes 30+ new devices including smoke, CO₂, and heat sensors, along with new strobe/siren units, and pull stations. The system components are 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.

Prayer List

Bob R. Carole, Bonnie, Judy and Henry, Carson, Steve, Anne, Laura, Ashlyn, Betty, Bob, Jerry, Julie and Ben, 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, the Food Pantry, students and teachers, first responders, those suffering from addiction, and those in the military, and those who mourn.

Upcoming Dates

Jan 1 – Happy New Year!

Jan 4 – 4:00 Bible Study – Psalms 98-101

Jan 6 – 10:00 Women’s Bible Study – Mark

Jan 11 – 4:00 Bible Study – Psalms 102-105

Jan 13 – 10:00 Women’s Bible Study – Mark

Jan 13 – No Vestry Meeting

Jan 17 – Sanctity of Life Sunday: send donations to Pregnancy Resource Center

Jan 18 – Martin Luther King Jr Day – Office Closed

Jan 20 – 10:00 Women’s Bible Study, Annual Meeting Reports due to Rev Lynne

Jan 25 – 4:00 Bible Study – Psalms 106-109

Jan 27 – Women’s Bible Study – Mark

Jan 31 – Annual Meeting

Feb 1 – 4:00 Bible Study – Psalms 110-111-112-113 *Feb 3* – 10:00 Women’s Bible Study – Mark

Feb 8 – 4:00 Bible Study – Psalms 114-115-116-117 *Feb 10* – 10:00 Women’s Bible Study – Mark

- 7:00 Vestry Meeting

Feb 15 – 4:00 Bible Study – Psalms 118-119-120-121

Feb 17 – 10:00 Women’s Bible Study – Mark Ash Wednesday: 12 Service (location TBD)

7:00 Ash Wednesday (location TBD)

Feb 18 – 10:00 Lenten Study “Living His Story” session 1

Feb 22 – 4:00 Bible Study – Psalm 122-123-124-125

Feb 24 – 10:00 Women’s Bible Study – Mark

12:00 Lenten Service (location TBD)

Feb 25 – 10:00 Lenten Study “Living His Story session 2

Looking Ahead: Palm Sunday at 9:00 a.m. (March 28), Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (April 1), Good Friday at 11:00/12:00 (April 2), Easter at 9:00 a.m. (April 4th)

Bible Trivia answers

Answers: 1. b) 10 Commandments, 2. c) cake [of bread], 3. b) manna, 4. d) pillar of fire, 5. d) all of the above, 6. c) rainbow, 7. a) sling and stone

January -February 2021 Lay Schedule

Date	Chalice	Readers
January 3	C. Skinner	S. Pulver R. Little
January 10	M. White	N. Folts D. Barney
January 17	K. Derr	S. Young K. Packard
January 24	N. Forenz	A. Edmister L. Graulich
January 31	L. Nichiporuk	S. Pulver R. Little
February 7	C. Skinner	N. Folts D. Barney
February 14	M. White	S. Young K. Packard
February 17 ASH WEDNESDAY	K. Derr	L. Graulich A. Edmister
February 21	N. Forenz	S. Pulver R. Little
February 28	L. Nichiporuk	N. Folts D. Barney

