



# THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE  
STEPHEN HARD, SENIOR WARDEN

VOLUME XCVIV  
ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2023  
ISSUE

Greetings to St. Mark's Faithful!

And that's what you are: faithful. I write to the holy remnant of the once numerous parishioners of St. Mark's Episcopal Church New Britain about the next steps in our merger process with St. James Church in Farmington. If I seem excited about this prospect it is because I am. I know that so many of you are grieving the loss of what once was, and some would like to hang on to what remains for as long as possible. I see things differently. We are on a downward trajectory that we worked to correct over the course of many years. My thinking is that I would like us to make substantive changes to our situation while we still have the wherewithal to do so, while we are able to direct rather than just accept what is coming. And that, my friends, is what the meeting on October 21 is all about.

If you would like to be a part of our future, please come to the meeting. As most of you know, I was a Catholic, and a priest. The Episcopal Church handles things very differently from the Catholic Church. We are not told what to do. We are part of the process of discerning God's plan for the future. I like this approach very much, even if it is a great deal messier than the Catholic "from the top" way of doing things. But it only works if you participate in the process. Please come to the meeting. I promise no one will be strong-armed to join a committee, but everyone will have that opportunity to make their voice heard.

Folks often ask me what this is going to look like when it's over. I don't know! I have some ideas, but this will be an effort of both parishes determining God's will for us. To "prime the pump" I will let you know that the process identifies four main areas of exploration: Mission, Finances, Property, and the Canons/Bylaws. Even if none of this interests you, come anyway. Get to know some of the people of St. James and, well, there will be lunch at the end. Please let Cheryl know if you will be joining us for either the meeting and/or the lunch.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Stephen Hard  
Senior Warden

## Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Stephen Hard, Senior Warden*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Sunday Services at St. James, Farmington*
- *Merger Parishes Meeting - R.S.V.P. required*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *Save The Date*
- *St. Mark's Food Pantry Fund Raiser at Fenn Rd. Newington Stop & Shop*
- *Autumn Months Prayer*
- *St. James 150th Celebration*
- *St. Mark's Worship Schedule - October - December 2023*
- *Allison's Parish Clerk Corner*
- *October Calendar*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*

## ZOOM & IN-PERSON SERVICE INFORMATION

### Broadcast Instructions

Our service will always be available on Zoom with Meeting ID 500-865-037. You can enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>. Please either print or have the bulletin open on a separate browser tab to participate fully in the service. (For more information on the Zoom service, please go to the back page of the bulletin.)

### Sunday Services at St. James, Farmington

For a variety of reasons associated with our plans to merge with St. James in Farmington, it will not always be possible to offer Sunday Services in the Erwin Chapel. On these Sundays, parishioners are encouraged to attend the Sunday Eucharist at St. James in Farmington to promote our getting to know one another and becoming more comfortable worshipping there. There are two services. Rite 1 is celebrated at 8:00 am, Rite 2 (normally with choir) is celebrated at 10:15 am. This is livestreamed via FACEBOOK LIVE. Livestream connection is by clicking the "F" icon at the top of the St. James Webpage. Only the 10:15 am service is livestreamed.

A parking tip: When approaching the church turn right just in front of the entrance. Parking to the left (behind the church) is difficult and limited. Across the street from the front door of the church there is ample parking available on Sunday mornings.

### **Merger Parishes Meeting October 21 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**



**IMPORTANT**

The people of St. Mark's New Britain and St. James Farmington are cordially invited to meet on Saturday, October 21 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Hart Hall, South Church, New Britain, to discuss the merger of the parishes.

Bishop Laura Ahrens will lead the meeting and we will be joined by Renee Janes of Grace & St. John's Episcopal Church in Hamden. Renee was involved in the merger of Grace & St. Peter's in Hamden with St John the Evangelist in Yalesville and was asked by Bishop Laura to assist with our process.

Besides an opportunity for us to get to know one another better, understand the process we are undertaking, and answer parishioner questions, we will set up committees to do the work going forward. Everyone will not want to be part of a committee, but for those who will want to be more involved in the process, that opportunity will be available.

St. Marks will host a luncheon following the meeting. Please contact Cheryl by phone or email (860-225-7634 or [parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org)) by **October 15th** to let her know if you will be attending just the meeting or the meeting and the luncheon.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Stephen Hard, Senior Warden  
Lenny Nelson, Junior Warden

## Contemporary Collects and Prayers

**October 1** - O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**October 8** - Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**October 15** - Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**October 22** - Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**October 29** - Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 30	9:00 a.m.	150th Celebration and Craft Fair
<b>Sunday, October 1</b>	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<b>150th Celebration Service at St. James, Farmington</b>
Tuesday, October 3	5:45 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 4	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
<b>Sunday, October 8</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Service in the Erwin Chapel - Barbara Campbell Worship Leader</b>
Monday, October 9		Columbus Day - Parish Office & Food Pantry Closed
<b>Tuesday, October 10</b>	<b>6:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Vestry Meeting - Cooper Hall</b>
<b>Sunday, October 15</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist Service in the Erwin Chapel - Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant</b>
<b>Saturday, October 21</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>All Parish Meeting with St. James and Bishop Laura Ahrens - Hart Hall - Lunch will be provided</b>
<b>Sunday, October 22</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Service in the Erwin Chapel - Stephen Hard, Worship Leader</b>
<b>Sunday, October 29</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Service in the Erwin Chapel - Barbara Campbell Worship Leader</b>
<b>Tuesday, October 31</b>		





**Fall in Love**  
With a Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet



We'll receive \$1 when you purchase this \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet at our designated Stop & Shop during the entire month of *October*.

**STOP&SHOP**  
stopandshop.2givelocal.com  
Bloomin' 4 Good Program

Help the St. Mark's Food Pantry!  
Buy your loved ones flowers during the month of October  
at the Newington Stop & Shop on Fenn Road.

### **Autumn Months**

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months,  
may the earlier setting of the sun  
remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves  
remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air  
remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and  
bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is  
temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

*- Author Unknown*

**St. James Parish  
150th Celebration Craft Fair & Music Fest**

**Time & Location**  
**Sept 30, 9:00 AM – Oct 01, 4:00 PM**  
**St. James Parish, 3 Mountain Rd, Farmington, CT 06032, USA**

**About The Event**

Held rain or shine, this event celebrating the 150th anniversary of the St. James Parish will include a Craft Fair with artisans, crafters and vendors exhibiting their wares, live local musicians sharing their talents, a Baked Goods Sale showcasing delectables from our own talented bakers, and a Luncheon/ Cafe, where shoppers can "grab a coffee," "just a bite," or make a selection from our luncheon menu with desserts available.

All proceeds benefit local, national, and international Outreach organizations.

[administrator@stjamesfarmington.org](mailto:administrator@stjamesfarmington.org)

(860) 677-1564

**Worship Schedule for St. Mark's – October – December 2023**

Below is a listing of our Sunday worship schedule from October 1 to December 31.  
Please note that this list may be subject to change at any time.  
Any changes will be noted in our weekly bulletin.

<b>October 1</b>	10:15 a.m.	St. James, Farmington (150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration)
<b>October 8</b>	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Barbara Campbell, Worship Leader
<b>October 15</b>	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant
<b>October 22</b>	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Stephen Hard, Worship Leader
<b>October 29</b>	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Barbara Campbell, Worship Leader
<b>November 5</b>	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant
<b>November 12</b>	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Stephen Hard, Worship Leader
<b>November 19</b>	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant
<b>November 26</b>	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant
<b>December 3</b>	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Barbara Campbell, Worship Leader
<b>December 10</b>	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant
<b>December 17</b>	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant
<b>December 24</b>	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joseph Pace Celebrant (4 Advent)
<b>December 24</b>	T.B.A.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joseph Pace Celebrant (Christmas Eve)
<b>December 31</b>	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joseph Pace Celebrant

## Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner

October 2023

Happy Autumn!

I don't have much to report this month, but we are on the cusp of big events. By the time you receive this, we will have celebrated St. James' 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a craft fair, music fest and Sunday worship with Bishop Mello. This is a great way to begin our merger process.

As you will read elsewhere in *The Message*, Bishop Laura has called an "all parish" meeting for Saturday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. followed by a luncheon at South Church. Everyone is invited including vestries, parishioners and clergy from both parishes. We will learn what we will do over the next year to become one parish. I am sad and excited at the same time. Our merger means St. Mark's will remain a guiding light in New Britain.

ECCT will have its annual General Convention "Be of Good Courage" on Oct. 27-28. Barbara Campbell and Stephen Hard will attend acting as our delegate and alternate.

Barbara has scheduled clergy for many Sundays through the end of the year. Father Joe Pace will celebrate on Christmas Eve.

Father George Roberts at St. James Church is available for any pastoral needs.

I pray that we may continue to support our neighbors as we also hold our own parishioners close to our hearts as they cope with hardships and celebrate joys.

***"Open to God's Love, Serving Our Neighbor"***

May the Holy Spirit continue to support and guide us in God's way, in God's time.

Peace,  
Allison

# OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> St. James, Farmington 10:15 a.m. 150th Celebration	<b>2</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg	<b>5</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	<b>9</b> <b>Office Closed</b> Columbus Day & Indigenous People's day	<b>10</b> 6:45 P.M. Vestry Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	<b>16</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	<b>23</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	<b>30</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>31</b> 				

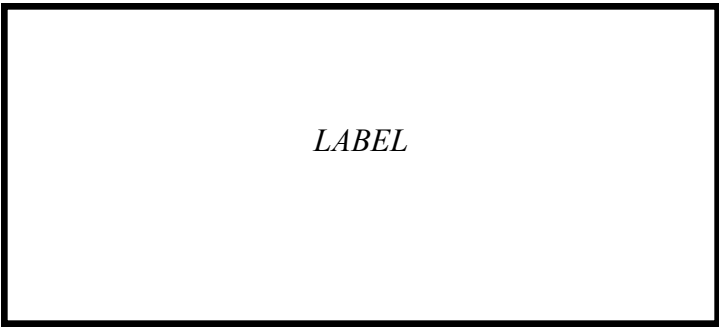
**St. Mark's Episcopal  
Church, New Britain**

**PO Box 1538  
90 Main Street  
New Britain, CT 06051**

**Phone: 860-225-7634  
Email: [parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org)  
Website: [www.stmarksnewbritain.org](http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org)**

**PRAYER CHAIN: to activate the chain call  
Barbara Campbell 860-673-7607,  
[Campbellba24@gmail.com](mailto:Campbellba24@gmail.com)**

**If you or someone you know is hospitalized,  
please inform the parish office.**



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***Open to God's Love -  
Serving Our Neighbor***

**Due date for all articles for the November  
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is October 18th.**

**Regular Parish Office Hours.**

Monday through Friday  
from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Food Pantry**

Monday: 9 - 12 & 12:30 - 2:00  
Thursday: 9 - 12 & 12:30 - 2:00  
(Closed for lunch from 12 - 12:30)



**Weekly Parish Services:**

**Sundays: In-Person and Zoom - 10:00 a.m. -  
Erwin Chapel at 90 Main St. unless otherwise stated.  
Please check the St. Mark's Calendar for our monthly schedule.**

**St. Mark's Food Pantry**

**Monthly Statistics: August 2023**

- ! Unduplicated households - 202
- ! Total Unduplicated people - 598
- ! Total food donated to St. Mark's - 1180 lbs.
- ! Total food from Food Share - 1983 lbs.
- ! Year to date food donations - 5860 lbs.
- ! Year to date from Food Share - 25957.5 lbs.

Connecticut residents may  
receive food from our Food  
Pantry once every 30 days.  
Please bring your own bag,  
if possible, to receive food.