



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE
STEPHEN HARD, SENIOR WARDEN

Dear St. Mark's Faithful,

A few things stood out for me at our "merger meeting" with St. James, Farmington. The first is that Bishop Laura made very clear that we will chart our own course. The ECCT will support our efforts but won't be micromanaging the process. When we left the meeting, we had not been given any marching orders. Father George and I determined that the next step was a meeting of the Vestries to determine the composition of the four committees suggested by the ECCT. Those committees are Canonical (Bylaws), Finance, Mission, and Property. We are hoping to have this meeting within the next few weeks when a member of each Vestry will be assigned to co-chair each committee. The parameters of each committee will also be determined. Each committee has a staff person at the ECCT who will assist with the process as needed.

Another thing that stood out for me was how some of the tough questions were openly raised, what we are going to call the new parish being one of the toughest. But E.J. Ososki, St. James Treasurer, asked the further question of how St. Mark's folks might feel when some of our endowment funds might be used for improvements to the St. James' complex. But the contribution that stood out the most for me was offered by our own Molly Sherman. She raised the issue that this merger might seem like an unequal union since our numbers are so small. Molly paid tribute to the significant financial assets we bring to the merger, but she even more poignantly said something like: "We may not have numbers, but we have fervor."

As I consider our holy remnant, I am struck by the selfless dedication, the "fervor," of all who remain. When we bring that to the new parish, we will be giving a gift far greater than money. In my decades of work with nonprofits I was always struck by those who moaned: "If only we had more money!" I never bought that. All the money in the world is useless and may even do great harm without people having both the

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willingness and the capability to use the funds in positive ways.

Finally, as we go forward we can focus on what we have already lost and are losing, or we can focus on what we are gaining by joining forces with St. James. How about a full-time priest? How about reliable Sunday Eucharist with a choir and wonderful music? Then there is a Sunday School and nursery. There are so many things we used to do that we will be able to do again while continuing our Food Pantry and outreach to the poor in New Britain. More than anything else, I hope you are feeling as I am: optimistic.


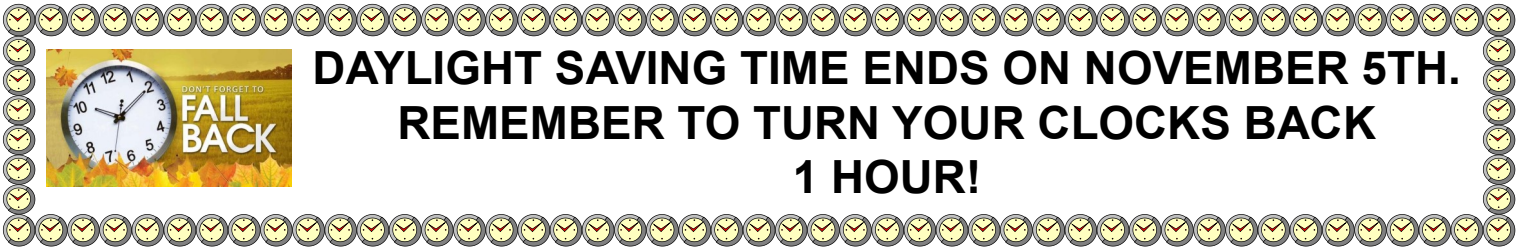
Sincerely in Christ

Stephen Hard
Senior Warden

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.)



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON NOVEMBER 5TH.
REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK
1 HOUR!**

Sunday Services at St. James, Farmington

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.

Contemporary Collects and Prayers

November 1 - All Saints Day: Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

November 5: Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

November 11 - Veterans Day: For those in the Armed Forces of our Country

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* BCP pg. 823

November 12: O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

November 19: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

November 23 - Thanksgiving Day: Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

November 26 - Christ The King: Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

BIG THANKS FOR HELP WITH HOSPITALITY!

Saturday's (October 21) very successful merger meeting couldn't have happened without a lot of invisible hard work by several people who should not be overlooked.

In addition to our organizers (Stephen Hard at St. Mark's and Fr. George at St. James' in Farmington) and our presenters (Bishop Laura and Renee Janes), a lot of effort went into planning and carrying out the hospitality. When you see them, please thank these folks whose hard work helped make the day a success!

Stephen Hard and Mark Giulietti gave me a lot of direction and guidance. Mark also packed up boxes of supplies and left it all ready in the office.

Cheryl Rusczyk handled the RSVPs and also put her back into unloading groceries and setting up the buffet.

Norm and Sue Holland helped with morning-of set-up and made the all-important coffee.

Bob Kissel and his golf umbrella escorted our guests through the pouring rain to the correct door for the meeting.

Our helpful angels Chuck and Sue Middlebrook hefted and toted bags and boxes, moved tables, set up and replenished food, ran up and down stairs, and did an awful lot of clearing, cleaning, dishwashing, and garbage-emptying.

I'm so happy hearing all the lovely comments about how welcoming we were, and so grateful to everyone who helped!

Molly Sherman, Hospitality

Worship Schedule for St. Mark's – November – December 2023

Below is a listing of our Sunday worship schedule from November 5 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.

November 5	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Stephen Hard, Worship Leader
November 12	10:15 a.m.	Services at St. James, 3 Mountain Rd., Farmington
November 19	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Stephen Hard, Worship Leader
November 26	10:15 a.m.	Services at St. James, 3 Mountain Rd., Farmington
December 3	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Barbara Campbell, Worship Leader
December 10	10:15 a.m.	Services at St. James, 3 Mountain Rd., Farmington
December 17	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Stephen Hard, Worship Leader
December 24	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joseph Pace Celebrant (4 Advent)
December 24	*8:00 p.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joseph Pace Celebrant (Christmas Eve)
December 31	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joseph Pace Celebrant

*Time of service may change.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 5 10:00 a.m. Service in the Erwin Chapel - Stephen Hard, Worship Leader

Wednesday, November 8 5:45 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 8 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

Friday, November 10 Veterans Day Observed - Parish Office Closed

Sunday, November 12 10:15 a.m. Services at St. James, 3 Mountain Rd., Farmington

Tuesday, November 14 6:45 p.m. Vestry Meeting - Cooper Hall and Zoom

Sunday, November 19 10:00 a.m. Service in the Erwin Chapel - Stephen Hard, Worship Leader

Thursday, November 23 Thanksgiving Day - Parish Office Closed

Friday, November 24 Parish Office Closed

Sunday, November 26 10:15 a.m. Services at St. James, 3 Mountain Rd., Farmington

**From American Friends of the
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem:**

**A LITANY FOR THE RESTORATION OF PEACE
IN THE HOLY LAND**

God of peace, we pray for the people of Palestine and Israel in these perilous and dangerous times.

For all who are fearful for the safety of their loved ones and themselves, we pray that the assurance of unfailing love, even in the midst of danger, settles upon them. Shelter them from despair and protect them from harm.

For all who are wounded, we pray they find healing.

For all who have died, we pray they find rest.

For all who grieve, we pray they find comfort.

For leaders on all sides, we pray for a renewed will to lay down arms, for the strength to put the grievances and wrongs suffered by their people to rest, and for the conviction to embrace a path of reconciliation and peace that preserves the rights and dignity of all of your children.

God of mercy, help us to remember there is no border that can separate us from your great love and protection, no stone that can sound the well of your deep mercy.

God of justice, we pray with hopeful hearts that your beloved children of the Holy Land will be spared a future of sustained violence and unrest and that a recognition of the humanity of all people will prevail.

We ask all this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

– American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

NOVEMBER 2023

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

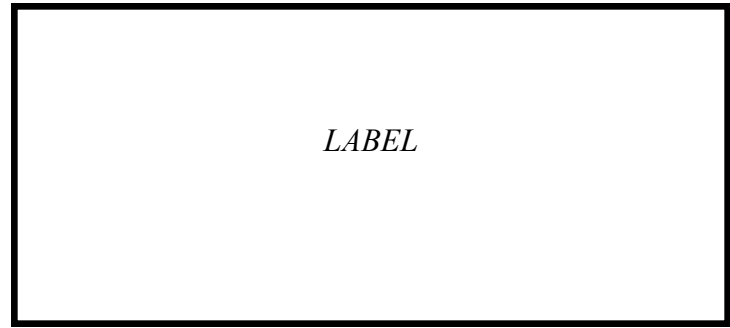
**St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, New Britain**

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

**Phone: 860-225-7634
Email: parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org
Website: www.stmarksnewbritain.org**

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

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



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

**Due date for all articles for the December
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is November 22nd.**

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: September 2023

- ! Unduplicated households - 165
- ! Total Unduplicated people - 500
- ! Total food donated to St. Mark's - 1,125 lbs.
- ! Total food from Food Share - 3,687 lbs.
- ! Year to date food donations - 6,985 lbs.
- ! Year to date from Food Share - 29,644.5 lbs.

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