



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

INCLUSIVE — BECAUSE DIVERSITY WAS GOD'S IDEA

ST. FRANCIS SATURDAY NIGHT

5:00 PM Holy Eucharist Worship In-Person (HC)

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Worship In-Person (HC)

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Worship In-Person & Livestream (Church)

Coffee Hour follows Online: [HERE](#) and 2nd Sunday of each month In-Person

PARISH OFFICE

Church : 2810 Long Ridge Road

Historic Chapel & Parish Office :

503 Old Long Ridge Road

Tel. 203.322.2949

Website: <http://www.stfrancisstamford.org>

E-mail: stfrancisstamford@gmail.com

Ministers

People of St. Francis

Clergy

Rev. Mark Lingle, Rector

203-570-6226

marklingle.pastor@gmail.com

Rev. Debra Slade, Vicar

203-512-0215,

debra.slade@gmail.com

Richard Weidlich, Minister of Music

(203) 246-1388

richardweidlich26910@frontier.com

Vestry

Jim Hawkins (Warden) 203-940-3512

Eileen Hynes (Warden) 203-249-6391

John Coff (Treasurer) 203-274-6607

Audrey Roco (Clerk) 201-704-3694

Nancy Bisset 203-940-0727

Joan Carty 203-767-6241

Richard Lee 203-382-3073

Jessica Lombardi 802-224-6273

Deborah Meyers 203-536-6080

Andrea Nyquist 719-640-2966

Aleta Shipley 917-653-5197

Suzanne Stevens 847-909-1078

Dawn Valenti 203-249-1535



CHRISTMAS AT ST. FRANCIS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24*

4:30 PM

Pre-Service Concert in the Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24*

5:00 PM

Festive Christmas Eucharist Service in the Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00 AM

Christmas Day Worship in the Historic Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25*

10:00 AM

Christmas Day Worship in the Church

*Livestream available [HERE](#) for Events with an asterisk



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

INCLUSIVE — BECAUSE DIVERSITY WAS GOD'S IDEA



Lessons and Carols Service

Sunday,
December 18
3:00 PM
Historic Church

Join us for Lessons and Carols

We gather outside at the Historic Church for this service of seasonal favorites.

A fire pit will be stoked to keep you warm, and hot chocolate and cider will be available. Enjoy the season with friends from St. Francis.



In this Issue...

Christmas Services p. 1
Lessons & Carols Service p. 2
MFM Check Presentation p. 3
Dove Program Begins p. 3
Outreach Grants p. 4
Advent Book Group p. 5

Pet Service p. 5
Weekly Services p. 6
Coffee Hour Returns p. 7
Stewardship Reflections p. 7
Book Group p. 8
Movie Night p. 9
Annual Meeting p. 9
Bible W/Wout Jesus p. 10

Adult Forums p. 11
Climate Crisis Program p. 12
Longest Night Service p. 13
Anti-Racism Training pp. 14 & 15
Calendars pp. 16 & 17



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
INCLUSIVE — BECAUSE DIVERSITY WAS GOD'S IDEA

OUTREACH COMMITTEE



From left to right: Cindy Russell, Cathy Ostuw, Linda Koe, Claudia Bilotti, Margery Irish, Dawn Randall, Joe Bilotti, Mark Lingle, and John Gutman

CHECK PRESENTATION TO NEW COVENANT CENTER

It was a very happy moment when members of the *Miles for a Mission* Road Race and Outreach Committees met at the New Covenant Center facility to present a check for \$25,750.00 to New Covenant Center as a result of the Road Race this past September. Thank you to all who made the event possible, for all who participated, and for all who gave so generously!!

DOVE PROGRAM BEGINS SEEKING DONATIONS BY DECEMBER 9

The Dove Program has been an integral part of our Christmas outreach for many years. Person to Person has once again asked that St. Francis make a monetary donation that will go towards the purchase of Shop Rite gift cards.

With the needs of the community still at record high levels, your support continues to be needed and will make a big difference for families who are economically challenged. Though we know that the “digital dove” is not the same, your donations will be as much of a blessing as ever and will brighten the holiday for these local families who are struggling with food insecurity

Donations can be made on line by clicking [here](#)

Or if you prefer, checks made payable to St. Francis earmarked Dove Program can be mailed to the church office at 503 Old Long Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06903

We ask that all donations be received by December 9th. Please email Nancy Bisset at bisset46@aol.com or call 203-325-9240 with any questions.

Thank you for your support.



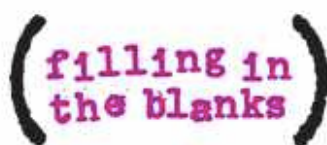


ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

INCLUSIVE — BECAUSE DIVERSITY WAS GOD'S IDEA

ST. FRANCIS GRANT PROGRAM DISTRIBUTES \$20,000 TO LOCAL NON-PROFITS

Thank you to the Outreach Committee that received grant proposals from various non-profits in Stamford and distributed \$20,000.00 to them on behalf of St. Francis. Chairwoman Nancy Bisset and the committee of Patricia Lydon, Rich Lee, Deborah Meyers, Cathy Ostuw, Margery Irish, Jane Lazgin, Doug Penn, Shivonne Mathison, Sheila Williams-Brown, Greta Corrigan, and Noreen McLaughlin have blessed us by their work.



Organization	2022 Grant
Americares Free Clinics	\$ 2,000
Back to School Shop	\$ 2,000
Building One Community	\$ 3,000
Domus Kids	\$ 2,000
Filling in the Blanks	\$ 2,000
Housing Development Fund	\$ 2,000
Inspirica	\$ 2,000
Pacific House	\$ 2,000
Starfish Connection	\$ 3,000
	\$ 20,000

Immediate thanks from the recipient organizations came in. Below are a few quotes from their notes of appreciation:

This is amazing news! Many thanks to you and the St. Francis Outreach Committee for your steadfast support of BIC. It's great to know that we have friends like you rooting for us along the way. Wishing you and yours a joyful holiday season as well.

Valeta Prendergast, Grants Manager, Building One Community

Many, many thanks to the St. Francis Outreach Committee for the trust and investment in Back to School Shop!!! Please know that these funds will be put to excellent use in providing for our local children.

Warm regards, Meryl Japha, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Back to School Shop.

My personal thanks to the committee for giving The Back to School Shop a grant again this year. I've been busy shopping and looking for bargains with all the "Black Friday" sales, so the grant will be well and efficiently used.

Best regards, Linda Atkins, (Parishioner and Back To School Shop Board Member)

This is really wonderful news, thank you so very much for your help and support!

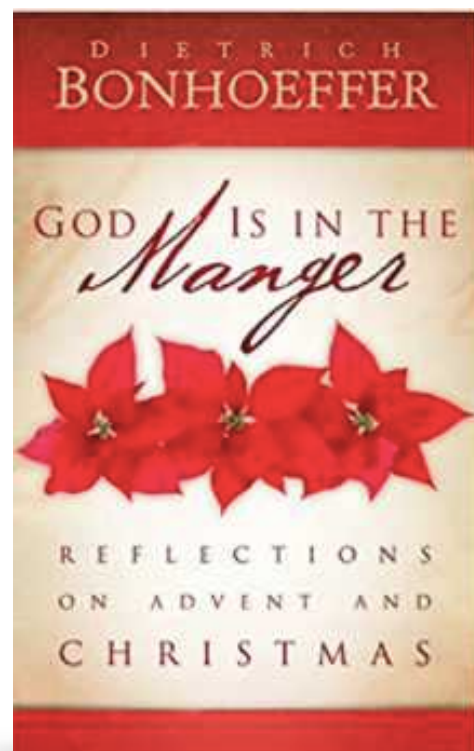
Jennifer Broadbin, Business Development Manager, Pacific House



Advent Reading Group Sundays in Advent at 11:00 AM

December 4
December 11
December 18

Bonhoeffer's book is a classic in Christian reflection. Join us following the 10 AM service during Advent as we reflect upon the themes of hope, anticipation, and preparation during this season and as we await the fullness of Incarnation. We will meet in person at the Church, and you can join online [here](#).



SAVE THE DATES!!

**MONTHLY
SERVICES
FOR PETS
AND
THEIR
PEOPLE
AT
4:00 PM**



**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 18**

* * *

**SUNDAY,
JANUARY 15**

* * *

**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 19**



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

INCLUSIVE — BECAUSE DIVERSITY WAS GOD'S IDEA



**SNEAK PEEK
LECTIONARY STUDY
MONDAYS @ 7:00 PM**

[Join Here](#)



**PRAYER SHAWL
MINISTRY
TUESDAYS @ 5:00 PM**

[Join Here](#)



**EVENING PRAYER
TUESDAYS @ 6:00 PM**

[Join Here](#)



**MORNING PRAYER
THURSDAYS @ 10:00 AM**

[Join Here](#)



IN-PERSON COFFEE HOUR RETURNS SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 KICKOFF

We will return to in-person coffee hours on a more regular basis starting on December 11. On the second Sunday of each month, we will offer coffee, tea, and simple snacks following the 10:00 AM service. Join us, and if you can help provide for one of the coffee hours, please sign up using the link below. The upcoming dates include:

January 8

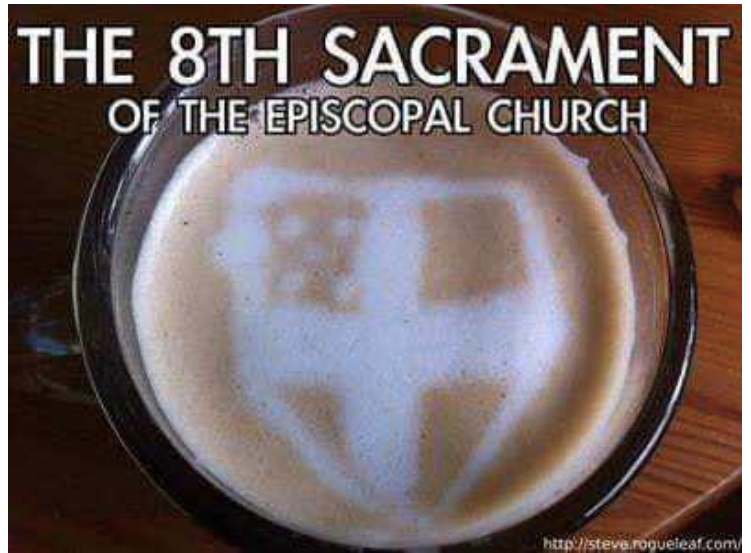
February 5

March 5

April 2 (Palm Sunday)

May 14

THE 8TH SACRAMENT
OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Sign Up for Coffee Hour

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM STARTING WELL

We were all blessed to hear (or read) the reflections by Beazie Larned and Cindy Russell around, *What St. Francis means to me*. Their images, histories, and connections resonated on so many levels. Thank you to both Beazie and Cindy for helping frame the question

for us as we enter the stewardship program for 2023. And

THANK YOU to all who have already generously supported the work of our life together. THANK YOU, as well, to all who are considering a pledge to support the ministry at St. Francis. We are blessed by you all!

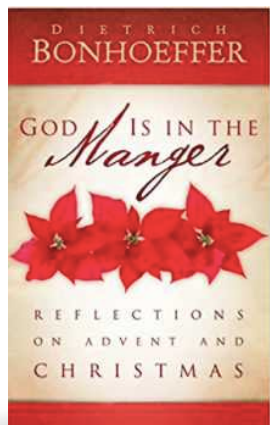




ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

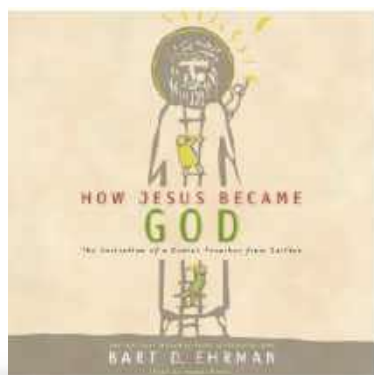
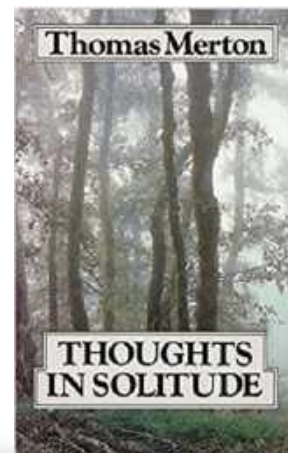
INCLUSIVE — BECAUSE DIVERSITY WAS GOD'S IDEA

BOOK CLUB



November 27
December 4
December 11
December 18
God is in the Manger
By
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Sundays in Lent
Thoughts in Solitude
by
Thomas Merton



Sunday, January 22
How Jesus Became God
by
Bart Ehrman

Sunday, May 7
See No Stranger
by
Valerie Kaur



Sunday, June 11
The 1619 Project
by
Nikole Hannah Jones





ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

INCLUSIVE — BECAUSE DIVERSITY WAS GOD'S IDEA



MOVIE NIGHT DISCUSSION

EAST OF EDEN

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8,
AT 4:00 PM**

Join us on Sunday afternoon, January 8, at 4:00 PM as we discuss the classic film based on John Steinbeck's compelling *East of Eden*. We invite everyone to view the film prior to the meeting. We will discuss the film on the 8th. Bring a friend

SAVE THE DATE!!

**PARISH ANNUAL
MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY
29
11:00 AM**



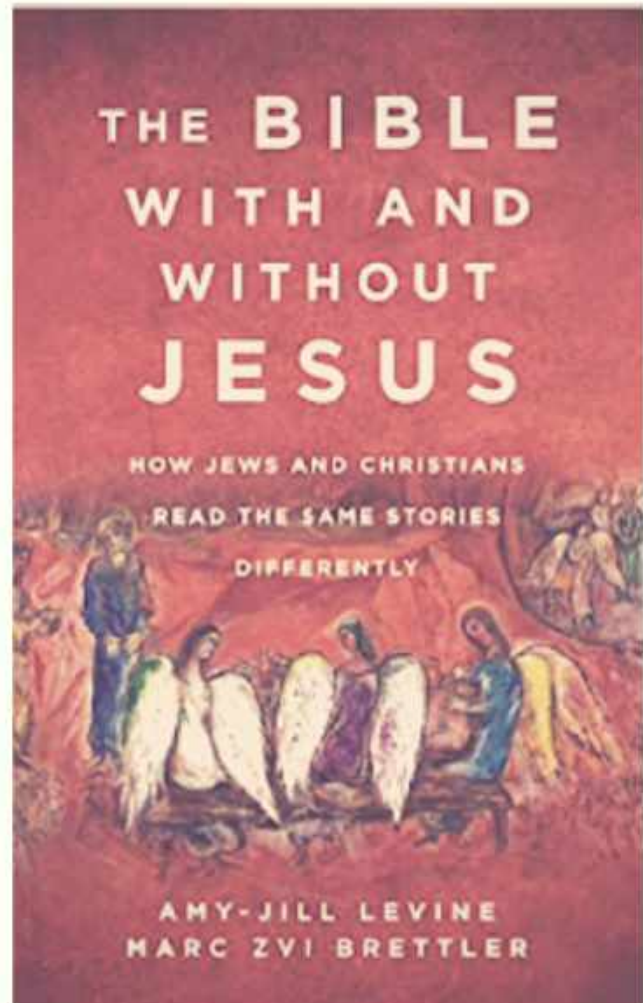
Please save Sunday, January 29, and join us at 11:00 AM for the Annual Parish Meeting. We will receive reports from the parish, approve the budget, candidates for vestry, and the new warden, and we will recognize the Unsung Hero or Heroine from the parish and remember those who have died in the last year. Thank you for your part in our life together. Blessings.



INTERFAITH BOOK STUDY: THE BIBLE WITH AND WITHOUT JESUS

Join Temple Beth-El,
St. John's Lutheran Church, &
St. Francis Episcopal Church for
this study.

We'll explore how Jews and
Christians read and interpret
biblical material the same and
differently



PROGRAM MATERIALS TO COME

JANUARY 26

ADAM AND EVE

FEBRUARY 2

MY GOD, MY GOD WHY HAVE YOU
FORSAKEN ME?

FEBRUARY 9

SON OF MAN

[CONNECT WITH ZOOM HERE](#)

Via Zoom Only
Thursdays | 6:30 PM

January 26
February 2
February 9



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

INCLUSIVE – BECAUSE DIVERSITY WAS GOD'S IDEA

Adult Forum

ADULT FORUM

7:00 PM

1ST AND 3RD TUESDAYS

We join with St. John's Lutheran Church at 7:00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month (except during Lent) to discuss various issues that intersect between faith and life.

Please access the meetings via the

Zoom link below. The upcoming classes include:

Tuesday, January 3

Father Harry Pappas discussing Epiphany

Tuesday, January 17

Panel Discussion on White Supremacy and Christian Nationalism

Tuesday, February 7

TBD

Tuesday, April 18

Yom Hashoah & Ken Burns Documentary on Authoritarianism and the Holocaust

Tuesday May 2

John Hamilton from Liberation Programs

Tuesday, May 16

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

[Join the Zoom Meeting Here](#)



INTERFAITH THEOLOGICAL FORUM ***FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD:*** ***RELIGIOUS RESPONSES IN A TIME OF CLIMATE CRISIS***

Third Thursday of each month@ 7:00 PM

These gatherings will be In-Person at the designated church, and the online link will be available for the meetings from October on next month.

DECEMBER 15

Host: First UMC

Presenter: Jay TelRav (Temple Sinai)

JANUARY 19

Host: First Presbyterian Church

Presenter: The Rev. Kristina Hansen (First United Methodist Church)

FEBRUARY 16

Host: Temple Sinai

Presenter: Andrew Kryzak (St. John's Episcopal)

MARCH 16

Host: Bethel A.M.E. Church

Presenter: Harry Pappas (Church of the Archangels Greek Orthodox)/
Chris Altrock (Stamford Church of Christ)

APRIL 20

Host: Stamford Church of Christ

Presenter: Josh Hammerman (Temple Beth-El)/
Inni Kaur (Guru Tegh Bahudar Ji Foundation/Sikh)



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

INCLUSIVE — BECAUSE DIVERSITY WAS GOD'S IDEA

LONGEST NIGHT INTERFAITH MEMORIAL

REMEMBERING OUR NEIGHBORS:
THE HOMELESS
THE VOICELESS
THE UNSEEN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

6:00PM

BETHEL AME CHURCH
150 FAIRFIELD AVE
STAMFORD, CT

You may also join us virtually by visiting
Bethel AME Church Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/bethelofstamford



SCAN ME





ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

INCLUSIVE — BECAUSE DIVERSITY WAS GOD'S IDEA

[View as Website](#)

Kaleidoscope Institute: Becoming Beloved Community

October 22, 23, 29 & 30 and
December 3, 4, 10 & 11



As a part of our commitment as a community to work for the end of systemic racism, anti-black bias, and white supremacy, we invite those who are able to participate in this offering from the Episcopal Church in Connecticut or other offerings through Stamford Stands Against Racism or other entities. The October dates have passed, but there are sessions in December. Thank you to all who are committed to this important work.

Embrace and enact the vision of Becoming Beloved Community

This training course is designed to help us embrace and enact the vision of Becoming Beloved Community - an ongoing and lifelong journey - as well as satisfy the anti-racism training requirement for all lay and ordained leaders in accordance with Resolution 7 of our 2020 Annual Convention. It includes opportunities for personal and group reflection.

Competencies Explored:

- Cultural awareness
- Truth telling
- Intercultural competency
- Power and privilege
- Repairing the breach

Each training consists of four (4) Zoom workshops over 2 weekends, and some materials to read, watch and reflect on before and between sessions. The sessions run 2-1/2 hours each. Participants will be invited to complete the online Intercultural Development Inventory® as part of this workshop.

Register for one of the two trainings being offered, **October 22, 23, 29 & 30** or **December 3, 4, 10 & 11**, using the button below.

There is no charge to attend. Seating is limited – Register today!

***Important Note:** Each training is a four day series and attendance is required on all four days.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)



episcopalct.org





ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

INCLUSIVE — BECAUSE DIVERSITY WAS GOD'S IDEA

[View as Webpage](#)

Decolonizing the Body of Christ

Beginning March 3-4, 2023



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN CONNECTICUT

DECOLONIZING THE BODY OF CHRIST

a six-month
transformational journey

March 3-4
April 20
May 18
June 22
July 20
August 25-26



About Dr. Christena Cleveland

Christena Cleveland Ph.D. is a social psychologist, public theologian, author, and activist. She is the founder and director of the Center for Justice & Renewal as well as its sister organization, Sacred Folk, which creates resources to stimulate people's spiritual imaginations and support their journeys toward liberation.



[Learn More Here](#)

SAVE THE DATES!

Decolonizing the Body: Our Continued Journey with Dr. Christena Cleveland Dates and Details

- **March 3-4:** *Returning to Eden: Communing with God by communing with our bodies*
- **April 20:** *Decolonizing the Person of Jesus: An Embodied Journey toward BIPOC, Feminist and Queer Spiritualities*
- **May 18:** *The Last Shall Be First: Embodied Pathways to Liberation for BIPOC People*
- **June 22:** *The First Shall Be Last: Embodied Pathways to Liberation for White People*
- **July 20:** *Decolonizing the Body of Christ: Power, Spirituality and the Collective*
- **August 25-26:** *Embodying Eden*

*** Attendees will need to commit to all six sessions; the sessions are not offered individually.**

Registration information will be available soon. We look forward to sharing our continued journey with you!

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist Service	2	3 5:00 PM St. Francis Saturday Night
4 Advent 2A 8 AM Worship (HC) 10 AM Worship (Church) 11:00 AM Advent Book Group	5 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study	6 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 PM Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Adult Forum	7 8:30 AM Episcopal Church in CT Meeting	8 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist Service	9	10 5:00 PM St. Francis Saturday Night
11 Advent 3A 8 AM Worship (HC) 10 AM Worship (Church) 11:00 AM Advent Book Group	12 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study	13 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 PM Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Vestry	14 Noon Stamford Clergy Meeting	15 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist Service	16	17 5:00 PM St. Francis Saturday Night
18 Advent 4A 8AM Worship (HC) 10AM Worship (Church) 11:00 AM Advent Book Group 3:00 PM Service of Lessons and Carols 4:00 PM Service for Pets & Their People	19 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study	20 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 PM Evening Prayer	21 6:00 PM Longest Night Interfaith Memorial	22 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist Service	23	24 4:30 PM Christmas Eve Pre-Service Concert 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
25 Christmas Day 8AM Worship (HC) 10AM Worship (Church)	26	27 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 PM Evening Prayer	28	29 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist Service	30	31 5:00 PM St. Francis Saturday Night

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 PM Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Adult Forum	4 8:30 AM Episcopal Church in CT Meeting	5 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist Service	6	7 5:00 PM St. Francis Saturday Night
8 8 AM Worship 10 AM Worship 11:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Movie Night: East of Eden	9 1:30 PM Interfaith Collaborative Meeting 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study	10 11:00 AM The Villa Eucharist 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 PM Evening Prayer	11	12 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist Service	13	14 5:00 PM St. Francis Saturday Night
15 8 AM Worship 10 AM Worship 11:00 AM Finance Committee 4:00 PM Service for Pets and Their People	16 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study	17 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 PM Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Adult Forum	18 8:30 AM Episcopal Church in CT Meeting Noon Stamford Clergy Meeting 3:00 PM Marketing Committee 7:00 PM Vestry	19 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist Service 7:00 PM For the Life of the World: Religious Responses to the Climate Crisis	20	21 5:00 PM St. Francis Saturday Night
22 8 AM Worship 10 AM Worship 11:00 AM Book Club: How Jesus Became God	23 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study	24 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 PM Evening Prayer	25	26 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist Service 6:30 PM <i>The Bible With and Without Jesus Discussion</i>	27	28 5:00 PM St. Francis Saturday Night
29 8 AM Worship 10 AM Worship 11:00 AM Annual Parish Meeting	30 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study	31 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 PM Evening Prayer				