



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

INCLUSIVE — BECAUSE DIVERSITY WAS GOD'S IDEA

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE

5:00 PM Holy Eucharist Worship (HC)

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Worship (HC)

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

Zoom Coffee Hour follows [HERE](#)

In-Person Coffee Hour 2nd and 4th Sundays

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

Richard Weidlich, Minister of Music

(203) 246-1388

richardweidlich26910@frontier.com

Vestry

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Eileen Hynes (Warden) | 203-249-6391 |
| Suzanne Stevens (Warden) | 847-909-1078 |
| John Coff (Treasurer) | 203-274-6607 |
| Audrey Roco (Clerk) | 201-704-3694 |
| Nancy Bisset | 203-940-0727 |
| Tim Butler | 203-218-4678 |
| Michael Carroll | 917-952-4818 |
| Joan Carty | 203-767-6241 |
| Emily Decker | 203-200-9746 |
| Anne Leonhardt | 347 489-7579 |
| Andrea Martinez | ja.martinez@gmail.com |
| Deborah Meyers | 203-536-6080 |
| Aleta Shipley | 917-653-5197 |
| Dawn Valenti | 203-249-1535 |

CHRISTMAS AT ST. FRANCIS

Sunday, December 17

5:00 PM

Lessons and Carols (HC)

Sunday, December 24

4:30 PM

Pre-service Concert (Church)

Sunday, December 24

5:00 PM

**Festive Christmas Eve Eucharist
(Church)**

Monday, December 25

10:00 AM

Christmas Day Eucharist (HC)



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Listening to Your Life . . .

On a recent Friday, I attended the Shabbat service at Temple Sinai. The timing worked, and I felt a need to support a good friend and colleague, Rabbi Jay TelRav, and his congregation. He did not know that I was coming, and, initially, he thought that I knew the young person who was doing her Bat Mitzvah and was there for her rite of passage. I noted that I thought I should be present at services to let the Jewish community know that there are those in the Christian world who recognize their struggle and sense of isolation in this time. Jay was his hospitable self and invited me to offer a prayer in the service. Nothing earth shattering. No major breakthroughs. Just a simple service on a random Friday. (By the way, the Friday service at Temple Sinai is worth a visit. Rabbi TelRav has developed a lovely liturgy and contemplative space for refuge in the hustle and bustle of life.)

Following up a few days later, Jay emailed me about another issue. As an aside, he noted that a long-time parishioner mentioned to him after the Shabbat service that he had never seen a priest in the synagogues he attended throughout his 70+ years of life. It was, for him, deeply moving.

Ours is an incarnational tradition. Showing up matters. Being present matters. As St. Francis famously declared, "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." Indeed, I was struck by how limited our words were at that Shabbat service. The grief, the powerlessness, the uncertainty, and the fear of so many gathered was palpable. (As I write, the ADL has noted a 400% rise in antisemitic acts in the U.S. over the past month and a half.) There were no words to resolve the tension. No smart way to encapsulate feelings. No incantation to drive away the darkness. In that moment, being present was about as good as it could get.

As we enter the new Church year and the season of Advent, showing up and being present are wonderful aspects of life to reflect upon. The Advent season can be a blur with preparations for Christmas, planning for travel or time together, and parties and other events of the season. Showing up there can be exhausting. Yet, during this season, we are invited to consider how we are present and can show up for others and the whole of creation as we wait and anticipate the Advent of the Holy in our midst. We are not so much remembering 2000 years ago to a young child born in Bethlehem. Rather, we await with hope and deep longing the fullness of God to reside in our midst, to heal the fissures that divide our culture and world, to mend the wounds that we carry with us in life, and to restore us all to the blessed place of peace and unity with God, neighbor, and world. It is true for us as well that showing up and being present matters. The beauty of this season is the reminder that God understands this truth and God does just that. Shows up. Is present. Words cannot fully express the complexity of life, but presence reminds us that we are not alone.

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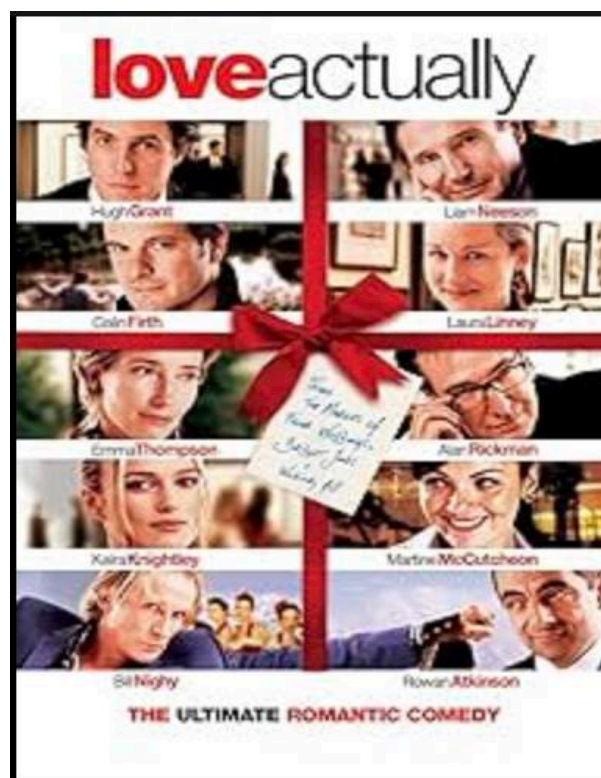


**THANKSGIVING
SERVICE
THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 23
10:00 AM**

Join us at the Historic Church for this quintessential New England's service The Historic Church is a lovely setting, the hymns and texts are enriching, and the Eucharist is a wonderful way to begin your day of Thanksgiving.

**MOVIE NIGHT
LOVE ACTUALLY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
5:00 PM**

Our next Movie Night will be on Sunday, December 10, at 5:00 PM. Watch the classic *Love Actually*, and then join us in the Narthex to discuss this Christmas gem, exploring the various facets of love.





**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 3,
@ 4:00 PM**

The Wonder of Christmas
A holiday concert for the whole family



featuring St. Francis favorites
Sarah Bleasdale, Jim Fredericks,
Julia Gmeiner, Frank Mastrone,
Richard Weidlich and Frank
Merendino and the Davenport Ridge
Elementary Singers.

**SUNDAY,
JANUARY 21
@ 4:00 PM**

GUNSMOKE

GUNSMOKE



Tickets (per person / per concert):

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Advanced Purchase | Adult: \$30, Student: \$10 |
| Purchased at Door | Adult: \$35, Student: \$10 |
| Children: 12 and under free | |

To Purchase Tickets, Click [HERE](#)

All concerts at the Church at 2810 Long Ridge Road



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[Get Tickets](#)

Saturday December 2nd - 3pm

The Stamford Chorale: Song for Snow

Music includes:

Rosephanye Powell's 'Christmas Give'

Florence Price collection

Selected other works, by Bonds, Bertaux, Broad-Ginsberg, LaBarr & Snyder

Tickets:

\$25 at the door

\$20 adult pre-sale

\$10 student (18+)

Under 18 free



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DOVE PROGRAM BEGINS DONATIONS DUE BY DECEMBER 9

Dear Friends,

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 8th. Please email Nancy Bisset at bisset46@aol.com or call 203-325-9240 with any questions.

Thank you for your support.

Nancy Bisset
Dove Program Chair



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

5:00 PM

Join us for this wonderful Christmas season service. We will return to the Historic Church sanctuary, and enjoy the classic lessons and carols of this season. Pastor Duane Peterson from St. John's Lutheran Church will join us. We will recognize his service in the community at the end of the service. All are invited to the rectory after the service for refreshments and fellowship.

LONGEST NIGHT INTERFAITH MEMORIAL SERVICE

Thursday,
December 21
5:00 PM
Bethel A.M.E.
Church
(150 Fairfield Avenue)

LONGEST NIGHT INTERFAITH MEMORIAL

REMEMBERING OUR NEIGHBORS:
THE HOMELESS
THE VOICELESS
THE UNSEEN



Book Club for 2023 - 2024

Advent Reflections

Watch the videos, and we will discuss them on Sunday.



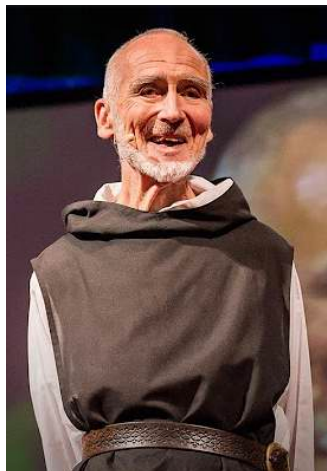
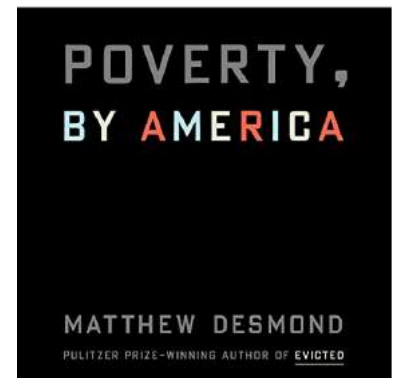
December 3
Annie Lamont
*12 Truths I Learned
from Life and
Writing*

February 4
**Small
Great
Things**



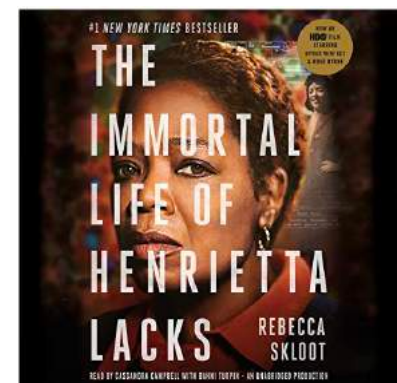
December 10
Brian Stevenson
*We Need to Talk
about an Injustice*

April 27
**Poverty By
America**



December 17
**David Steindl-
Rast**
*Want to be Happy?
Be Grateful*

June 9
**The
Immortal
Life of
Henrietta
Lacks**





ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Adult Forum

ADULT FORUM
SECOND TUESDAY OF
EACH MONTH
7:00 - 8:00 PM

This year we continue to partner with St. John's Lutheran and St. John's Episcopal in providing educational opportunities for all three churches.

[Join the conversation here.](#)

Tuesday, December 12

Bishop Amy Odgren will present. Bishop Odgren serves the Northeast Minnesota Synod of the ELCA. The bishop has experience relating to Indigenous Peoples on her territory and will share what she has learned. This topic is of interest because of the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement that has been considered at St. John's and St. Francis. To read about some of the efforts of the NE MN Synod with Indigenous Peoples, click [HERE](#).

Tuesday, January 9

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman from Temple Beth-El joins us to discuss the Jewish concept of *Messiah*.



SNEAK PEEK
LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY
MONDAYS
7:00 PM

Join with members from St. John's Lutheran and St. John's Episcopal as we review and discuss the upcoming texts for Sunday. Every Monday at 7:00 PM we will meet via Zoom to hear the upcoming Sunday's texts unpacked and discussed.

This is a great way to enrich your experience of the Bible and Sunday worship.

December 4

[Mark 1:1-8](#)

December 11

[John 1:6-28](#)

December 18

[Luke 2:1-14](#)

[Join the conversation here.](#)

WEEKLY OFFERINGS...



SNEEK PEEK
MONDAYS @ 7:00 PM



PRAYER SHAWL
MINISTRY
TUESDAYS @ 5:00 PM



EVENING PRAYER
TUESDAYS @ 6:00 PM



MORNING PRAYER
THURSDAYS @ 10:00 AM



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**MONTHLY
SERVICES
FOR PETS
AND
THEIR
PEOPLE
4:00 PM
(AT THE
CHURCH)**

December 17

January 21

February 18



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Tuesdays at 5:00 PM

The group has been meeting weekly throughout the pandemic. It is a great way to catch up with others, knit prayer shawls or caps for various causes, and enjoy the company of others.

[**Join Here**](#)

GUEST PREACHERS AT ST. FRANCIS

In an effort to offer a variety of voices from the pulpit and expand the experiences of those attending St. Francis, we are delighted to welcome the following ministers to St. Francis throughout the fall. These are friends of the parish who are important partners in the work that we do together in Stamford.

Sunday, December 3 **Deacon Edrice Veichweg**

Edrice is the former Deacon at St. Francis and a welcome guest in the pulpit. She currently serves St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Fairfield and continues to help with the Prayer Shawl ministry at St. Francis.



Sunday, January 21 **Rabbi Jay TelRav**

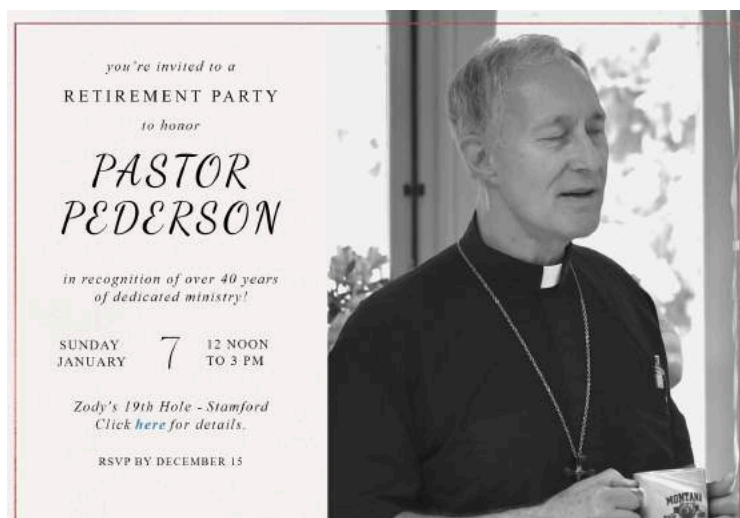
Rabbi Jay TelRav is the leader of Temple Sinai in Stamford. He is a classic teacher and wonderful communicator of the Jewish tradition that engages contemporary life. Join us on Sunday, January 21, as Rabbi TelRav leads our reflections on the Holy Word as it engages our Holy Lives.



Pastor Duane Pederson **Retirement Party** **January 7 @ Noon**

Our colleague and friend, Rev. Duane Pederson, retires on January 7. If you would like to join in the party to honor his ministry at St. John's, please sign up

[HERE.](#)





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SAVE THE DATE PARISH ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 11:00 AM

Join us on Sunday, January 28, following the 10:00 AM service for the St. Francis Annual Meeting. We will receive reports from various committees, approve the budget for 2024, elect a new vestry class and warden, and recognize the Unsung Hero/Heroine of the past year!



REIMAGINING CHURCH

The *Reimagining Church* Committee continues to meet. We have secured a consultant, Jim Elrod, and have begun work with Jim that involves the vestry. We will report out in more detail the work of the committee and the engagement of the parish at the Annual Meeting on January 28.

Be sure to join us then!



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LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION

THE 1619 PROJECT

FEBRUARY 18

ORIGINS



CHAPTER 1—DEMOCRACY

FEBRUARY 25

CHAPTER 2—RACE



CHAPTER 3—SUGAR

MARCH 3

CHAPTER 4—FEAR



CHAPTER 5—DISPOSSESSION

MARCH 10

CHAPTER 6—CAPITALISM



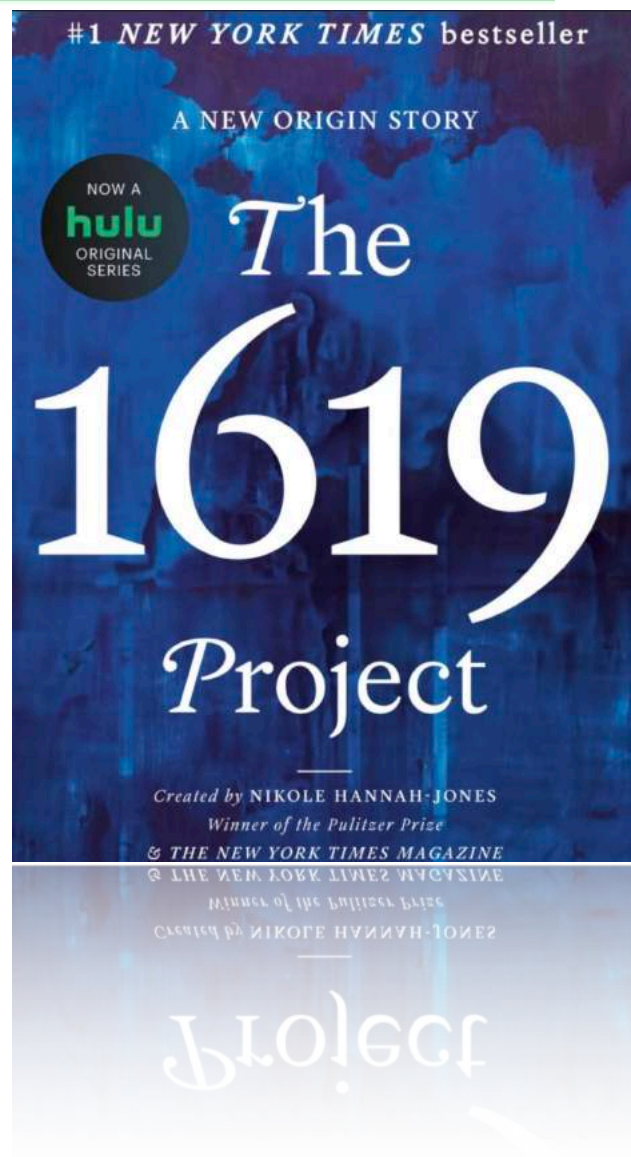
CHAPTER 7—POLITICS

MARCH 17

CHAPTER 8—CITIZENSHIP



CHAPTER 10—PUNISHMENT



MARCH 24

CHAPTER 13—CHURCH



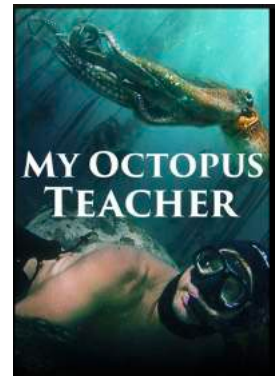
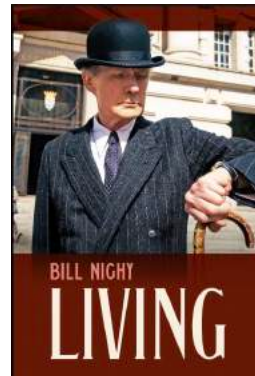
CHAPTER 18—JUSTICE



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Scenes from this past Fall. . .



Movie Nights



BE SWIFT TO LOVE
MAKE HASTE TO BE KIND



Please join us for a
Celebration of Debra Slade's
fifteen years of ministry with
St. Francis Parish



Pacific House Serving



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Ecumenical Pet Blessing

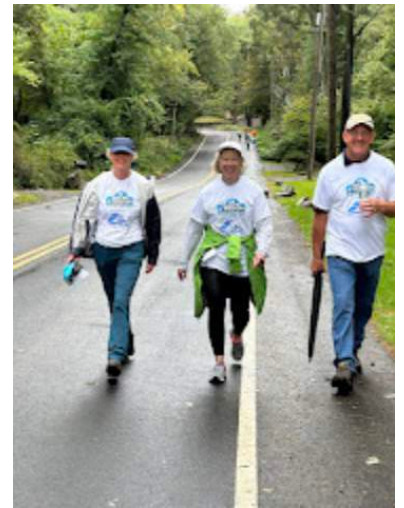
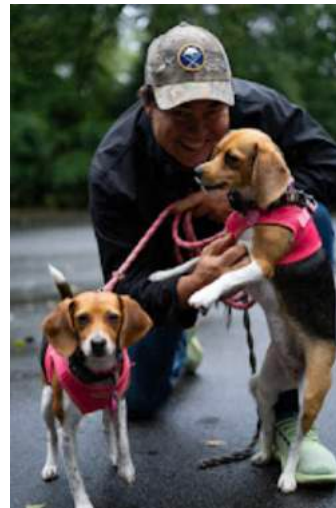
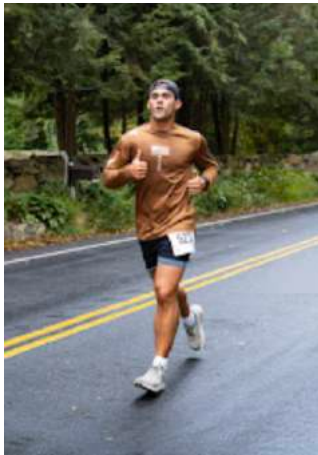
Sunday, October 1
St. John's Lutheran Church





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**ANNUAL STAMFORD INTERFAITH COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING MEALS**

Thursday, November 23, 2023 11:00AM-12:00PM

Provided by St. John's Episcopal Church, the First Congregational Church, and St. John's Lutheran Church of Stamford.

Meals distributed at:

St. John's Episcopal Church, 628 Main Street, Stamford, CT 06901

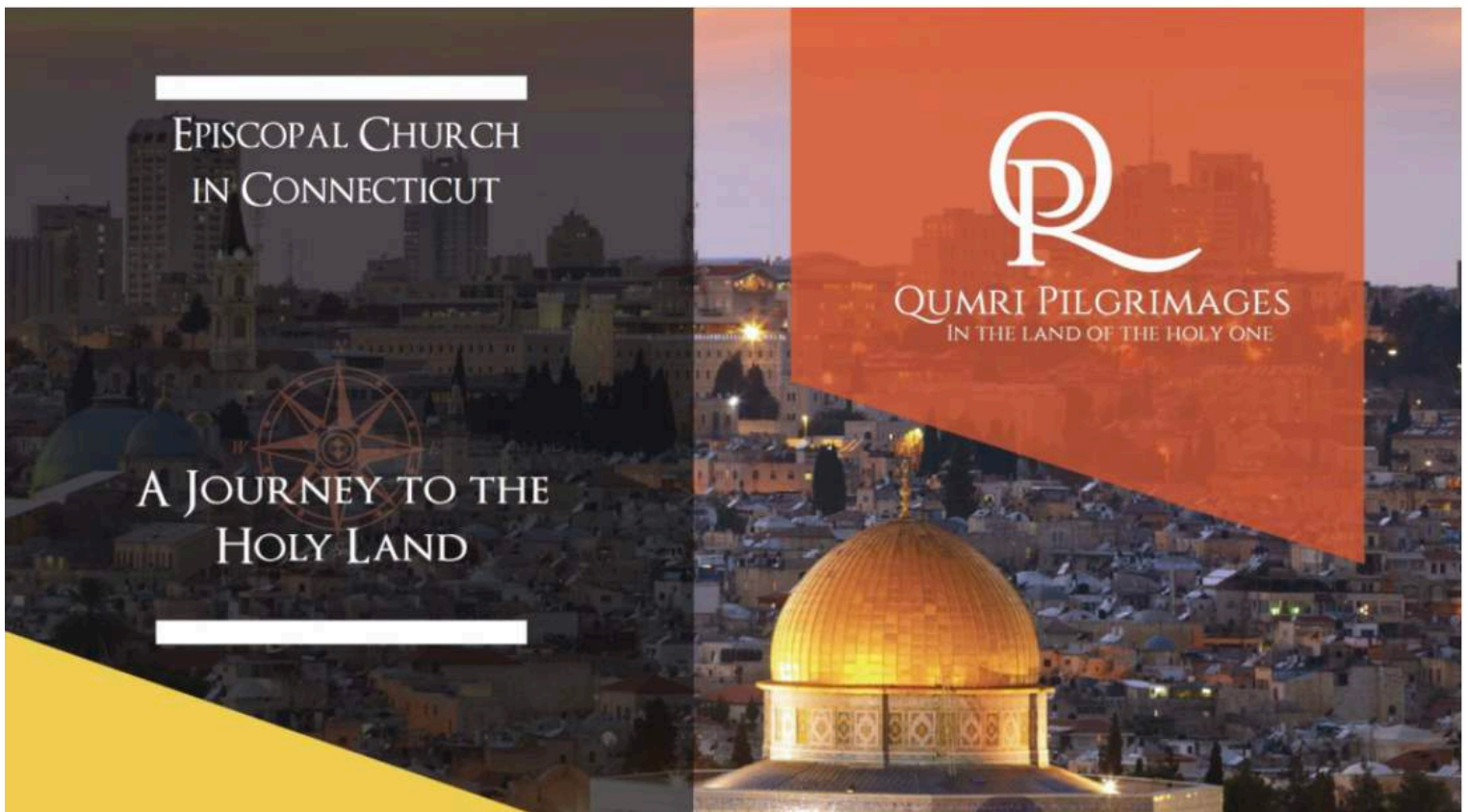
Individually bagged Thanksgiving Meals. There is no charge. Please call St. John's Episcopal Church at (203) 348-2619 no later than Wednesday, November 22nd at 11:00 am to reserve a meal or request a home bound meal delivery. Please leave a message with your name, phone number, and the number of meals needed



Episcopal Church in Connecticut

**2024 ECCT Holy Land
Pilgrimage with the Bishops**

April 22 - May 3



DECEMBER

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 5:00 PM Saturday Evening Worship (HC) |
| 3 8:00 AM Worship (HC) 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Advent Podcast Discussion 11:30 AM Finance Committee Mtg. | 4 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study | 5 10:00 AM Executive Committee 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00PM Evening Prayer | 6 | 7 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist | 8 9:00 AM Longest Night Memorial Planning | 9 5:00 PM Saturday Evening Worship (HC) |
| 10 Guest Preacher: Edrice Veichweg 8:00 AM Worship (HC) 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM In-Person Coffee Hour 11:00 AM Advent Podcast Discussion 5:00 PM Movie Discussion: Love Actually | 11 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study | 12 10:00 AM Executive Committee 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00PM Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Adult Education | 13 Noon Stamford Clergy Meeting | 14 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist 6:00 PM Vestry | 15 | 16 5:00 PM Saturday Evening Worship (HC) |
| 17 8:00 AM Worship (HC) 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Advent Podcast Discussion 4:00 PM Service for Pets & Their People 5:00 PM Lessons & Carols Service | 18 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study | 19 10:00 AM Executive Committee 11:00 AM Eucharist at The Villa 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00PM Evening Prayer | 20 | 21 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist | 22 | 23 5:00 PM Saturday Evening Worship (HC) |
| 24 Christmas Eve 8 AM Worship 10:00 AM Worship 4:30 PM Pre-Service Concert 5:00 PM Festive Christmas Eve Service | 25 Christmas Day 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service | 26 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00PM Evening Prayer | 27 | 28 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist | 29 | 30 5:00 PM Saturday Evening Worship (HC) |

JANUARY

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|---|-----------|---|
| | 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR !! 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study | 2 10:00 AM Ex. Committee 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00PM Evening Prayer | 3 | 4 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist | 5 | 6 Feast of the Epiphany 5:00 PM Saturday Evening Worship (HC) |
| 7 8 AM Worship (HC) 10 AM Worship (Church) Noon Rev. Duane Peterson Retirement Reception | 8 2:00 PM Social Ministry Collaborative 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study | 9 10:00 AM Ex. Committee 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00PM Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Adult Forum | 10 | 11 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist | 12 | 13 5:00 PM Saturday Evening Worship (HC) |
| 14 8 AM Worship (HC) 10 AM Worship (Church) 11:00 AM In-Person Coffee Hour | 15 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study | 16 10:00 AM Ex. Committee 11:00 AM The Villa Eucharist 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00PM Evening Prayer | 17 Noon Stamford Clergy Meeting | 18 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist 6:00 PM Vestry | 19 | 20 5:00 PM Saturday Evening Worship (HC) |
| 21 8 AM Worship (HC) 10 AM Worship (Church) 4:00 PM <i>Sounds Good</i> Concert: <i>Gunsmoke</i> | 22 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study | 23 10:00 AM Ex. Committee 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00PM Evening Prayer | 24 5:00 PM Outreach Committee Meeting | 25 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Edgehill Eucharist | 26 | 27 5:00 PM Saturday Evening Worship (HC) |
| 28 8 AM Worship (HC) 10AM Worship (Church) 11:00 AM Parish Annual Meeting | 29 7:00 PM Sneak Peek Lectionary Study | 30 10:00 AM Ex. Committee 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00PM Evening Prayer | 31 | | | |