



An inviting safe community for all

St James Weekly — June 14, 2020

St James Episcopal Church
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The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector
920-860-5152 (cell phone)
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dianemarie.murray@gmail.com
Please contact Amma Diane with any pastoral care or other needs.

Bible Study Sundays at 8:45AM

To participate from any phone, dial 1-312-626-6799
When prompted for Meeting ID, enter 580 876 932 #
When prompted for Participant ID, press #
When prompted for Password, enter 0 # [number zero]

Worship Sundays at 10AM

To participate from any phone, dial 1-312-626-6799
When prompted for Meeting ID, enter 342 570 232 #
When prompted for Participant ID, press #
When prompted for Password, enter 0 # [number zero]
*Everybody is invited to read/pray/sing at the appropriate times.
We're keeping phones muted during Worship so everybody can hear.*

Mid-Week Worship Wednesdays at 5:30PM

To participate from any phone, dial 1-312-626-6799
When prompted for Meeting ID, enter 670 567 006 #
When prompted for Participant ID, press #
When prompted for Password, enter 0 # [number zero]

Morning Prayer Fridays at 6:30AM

To participate from any phone, dial 1-571-317-3122
When prompted for Access Code, enter 780 162 197 #
If prompted for Audio Pin, enter #

Note about all call-in activities

If you need to mute your phone for any reason, use your phone's mute button or press *6 to mute/un-mute.

Links to connect are in our emails

Options for calling in to our regular activities are listed in St James Weekly. Links for connecting by other devices are included in our twice-weekly emails.

Our building may be closed, but we are still active!

All church activities are by internet/phone. All in-person worship services, meetings, gatherings, and other activity continue to be suspended until further notice. Even if you have a key, please do not enter the building without talking to Amma Diane first. Thank you.

Letter from Vestry sent the week of 6/1

The Vestry mailed a letter containing information about the phases to re-open churches in our diocese, and what that may look like for St James. If you need a copy, call Amma Diane (860-5152). We will give ample notice prior to re-opening our building for any in-person church activities of any size.

KAN Cool for School 8/15 - Volunteer Opportunities

KAN Cool for School will look different this year. We will be doing a drive through event where the families will be given gift certificates to purchase school supplies and Soles for Souls will provide gift certificates to purchase shoes. The event will be held at two locations—Two Rivers High School & Roncalli High School—on August 15 from 9AM-12PM. Recipient families will receive a letter inviting them to come. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Mary Burckle. (905-9690). If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to KAN Cool for School and mail it to Mary Burckle (2440 Mirro Dr Apt 18, Manitowoc, WI). We appreciate all of the support the members of St James have always shown to KAN.

Vestry Updates 6/12

- ◆ Manitowoc County Covid-19 positives was at 42 as of June 12, up from 36 at the end of May. Active cases are still hovering around 22 (some go off and some new get added). Some parts of Wisconsin are starting to see significant spikes since opening up has begun, including several nearby counties. The Manitowoc County Health Department recommends limiting non-essential travel, including within the state. We can all do our part to continue to help limit the spread. Limiting interaction outside your household is still the safest option. When interacting in public settings, maintain physical distance and wear masks. If you have symptoms, get tested.
- ◆ Amma Diane has initiated exploration with restoration company for options to remedy recent lower level leaks.
- ◆ Let Amma Diane or another member of the Vestry know if there are needs for other regular or one-time church events, meetings, etc to take place remotely. We'll be happy to talk with you to add them to our schedule.

If you have any questions, please contact Amma Diane.

Your St James Episcopal Church Vestry is having weekly executive session meetings in response to the pandemic, to check in with each other as leadership of the congregation and to respond as quickly as possible to changes due to COVID-19 that could affect St James and our congregation. The next regular public Vestry meeting will be in August (date TBD).

Thanks for your support!

We appreciate your continued financial support while we are being the church in this different way. Checks can still be mailed to the church, and are regularly counted and deposited. You can also set up payments through your bank (most offer this for free). We know that these are difficult times for some, and we understand if you are unable to support the church financially. Please contact Amma Diane if you need help connecting to assistance or resources. **Our special offering for the month of June supports our Rector's Discretionary Fund to help those in need—please label gifts accordingly.**

Why “Black Lives Matter”?

by Bishop Matt Gunter

In the sixth chapter of Acts, there is this account of the early church: ¹*Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Greek-speaking Jewish converts complained against the Hebrew-speaking Jewish converts because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food.* ²*And the twelve called together the whole community of disciples and said, “All widows matter.” And that settled it.*

Actually, that is not what they said and not how they settled it. Instead, it went this way: ²*And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, ‘It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait at tables.’* ³*Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task,* ⁴*while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.’* ⁵*What they said pleased the whole community.*

It appears there was a division in the earliest church and a disparity in how the widows of one group were being treated vis a vis the other. Given the tensions it might have been tempting for the twelve, being Hebrew-speaking Jewish converts, to deny the disparity. They did not. Rather, they formed the order of deacons to issue that everyone received a fair share.

We have heard from our African-American sisters and brothers that there is a disparity in the way they are treated. In the case of Ahmaud Arbery, Christian Cooper, and George Floyd; we have not only heard, we have seen it. This is true across the board. Particularly, and much too often, our black brothers and sisters report that this disparity of treatment shows up in their engagement with the police and the courts. This gives the impression that justice for them – indeed their very lives – is worth less. Hence the cry, “Black Lives Matter.”

The point of Black Lives Matter, is not that other lives do not matter. It is not that other lives do not matter. It is not that the lives of police or anyone else do not matter. The Greek-speaking converts did not insist that their widows mattered more than the Hebrew-speaking widows. They were demanding fairness and justice where fairness and justice were not being applied. So it is with Black Lives Matter.

Those of us who are white have the same choice as the disciples in Acts 6. We can ignore or deny the injustice. We can avoid dealing with it by deflecting and insisting that all lives matter so we do not have to deal with the reality that it is not in fact always true in our society that all lives matter. Or we can acknowledge that something is wrong in the way black people have been and are being treated. With them we can affirm and insist that Black Lives do indeed Matter. We can acknowledge that racism is a corrosive reality in America and one with a long, deep, and pervasive history. We can commit ourselves to doing something to address that history and change that reality.

What if we, like the disciples in Acts 6, faced the injustice? They formed the order of deacons – servants – to insure fairness. What if we committed ourselves to be better servants of our black neighbors? What if we listened better, with open hearts and non-defensiveness, to their stories of injustice? How might we, like deacons, advocate with and for them? What diaconal policies and laws might we advocate for to insure more justice?

Prayers for the Week

For Healing, Comfort & Strength: Karen & Bob, Bonnie, Andrew, Emily, Brenden, Steve & Marybeth, Virginia, Tom, Mary, Silas, Carol, Elizabeth, Vanessa, Terry, Debbie, Bonnie, Don & Beth, Faith, Scott, Susie, Marty & Nancy, Peggy, Joe Mike, Chip, Jim, Bill, Steven, Billy, Cherity, Len & Margaret, Hugh, Geri, Candace, Ray, Mike & Laura, Robin, Madeline, Audrey, Joan, Jane, Mollie, Clarence & Liese, Lori, Sharon, Toby and family with prayers for healing for Toby’s father Walter, Chris, Jim, Karleen.

For Guidance & Discernment: Tim, Guy & Mary, Kurt, Ronald, Alison, Scott, Margaret, Frankie, Brian & Lisa, Tom, Johnathon, Ginny & Karen, Annie & Tom, Kim.

For Those Serving in the Military: Jordan, Kyle, Zach, Daniel, Ian, Logan, Keaton.

Additional Prayers we offer include: For Peace in our world... for the people of the Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Sudan and missionary families. In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for Holy Trinity, Waupun and Holy Trinity Mission District, Masvingo. In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for the Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma). For people living with mental illness. For Painting Pathways Clubhouse. Hope House families. The men of The Haven. We pray for those working in government in our cities, state, country and the world. We pray for our neighborhood. For Teddy serving as a missionary in rural Russia. For the people around the world affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Pray for an end to racism and social injustice in our country.

We offer thanks for: Diane our Rector, Tammy and Chris, our Wardens, our Vestry and other ministry leaders, staff and every person in this congregation. Bishop Matthew Gunter and his wife Leslie and family. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his wife, Sharon. Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. For our companion Diocese of Masvingo in Zimbabwe and their Bishop The Right Reverend Godfrey and his wife Albertina.

We Pray for the Departed: Tom, Audrey & Clayton, Pat, Myrna, Cindy, Joe, Paul

We Pray for those celebrating milestones in June:

Anniversaries: 6—Nancy & Murray Sim; 8—Shirley & Mel Ouradnik; 11—Dianne Wilson & Chuck Wernecke; 13—Anne Schuette & Dan Hornung; 16—Peggy & Bob Turnbull; 19—Karleen & Skip Cole; 29—Sharon & Mike Laughrin.. **Birthdays:** 4—Amma Diane Murray; 9—Jill Short; 15—Sally Hunner; 22—Sandy Olson; 28—Peggy Turnbull; 29—David Grams.

If you would like prayers to be included please contact Amma Diane Murray at 920-860-5152 or dianemarie.murray@gmail.com

Scrip upcoming order dates

Scrip can still be purchased while we are apart by calling Tammy McVeigh to place your order and mailing a check to St James. Your scrip will be delivered to you when it comes.

July 12 August 9 September 13
October 11 November 8 December 6

Scrip is a way for you to purchase store gift cards for your own use or to give as gifts. The card user gets full value for the amount and St James receives a percent (varies with retailer). The money St James receives goes into our Outreach Fund.