



An inviting safe community for all

St James Weekly — November 22, 2020

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The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector
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Please contact Amma Diane with any pastoral care or other needs.

Weekly Schedule

UPDATED! [Bible Study—Sundays at 8:45AM](#)

11/15—12/20: Bible Study on Galatians (1 chapter each week).

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]
By compute or other device: go.mysjec.com/biblestudy

UPDATED! [Worship—Sundays at 10AM](#)

Participate LIVE or view at any time after:
go.mysjec.com/facebook or go.mysjec.com/youtube

11/22: Christ the King
11/29—12/20: Advent Season

[Mid-Week Worship—Wednesdays at 4PM](#)

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]
By computer or other device: go.mysjec.com/wednesday

[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 #
By computer or other device: go.mysjec.com/Friday

If you experience trouble with your internet connection for our weekday services or bible study, try turning off your camera and just using audio to see if that helps.

[Thanks for your support!](#)

We appreciate your continued financial support while we are being the church in this different way. Checks can be mailed to or dropped off at the church. You can also set up payments through your bank (most offer this for free) or donate online at mysjec.com/donate. 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 November goes to Painting Pathways Clubhouse, supporting those in our community with a diagnosed mental illness—please label gifts accordingly.**

[Thanksgiving with St James 11/26 at 10:30AM](#)

Our St James Thanksgiving traditions will continue in a new way this year. Join via phone or computer starting at 10:30AM on 11/26. We'll have a brief (~15 min) prayer service followed by social time. We'll wrap up around noon, though could continue longer if people are interested.

To participate from any phone, dial 1-312-626-6799
When prompted for Meeting ID, enter 858 0078 2472 #
When prompted for Participant ID, press #
When prompted for Password, enter 0 # [number zero]
By computer/other device: go.mysjec.com/thanksgiving

NEW! [Bishop Matt's virtual visit on 12/13](#)

Bishop Matt Gunter's visit to St James will be virtual this year. Join us using the usual Facebook or YouTube links at 10AM on 12/13 for Worship which will include a Sermon by Bishop Matt. At 11AM, connect on Zoom for a time of conversation with our bishop.

To participate from any phone, dial 1-312-626-6799
When prompted for Meeting ID, enter 848 2139 4453 #
When prompted for Participant ID, press #
When prompted for Password, enter 0 # [number zero]
By computer or other device: go.mysjec.com/bishop

NEW! [Race conversation continues 12/20 at 11AM](#)

We've gathered on 9/13, 10/18, and 11/15 to share our thoughts following the 7-week Becoming Beloved Community series and where God may be leading us in response. Participants want to continue the conversation about race and invite others to join at 11AM on Sunday 12/20. This series is designed to help us grow as a community of reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers who share a passion for the dream of God.

To participate from any phone, dial 1-312-626-6799
When prompted for Meeting ID, enter 865 7336 7198 #
When prompted for Participant ID, press #
When prompted for Password, enter 0 # [number zero]
By computer or other device: go.mysjec.com/beloved

Reading St James Weekly by email? Occasionally the PDF/email embedded links don't work properly. If you try clicking a link and it doesn't work, simply type the link in manually in your web browser/search and it will work.

A note and invitation from Amma Diane

Dear friends,

We've had good conversations during our Becoming Beloved Community discussion series. There has been a desire by those who have participated in these conversations—and by others in our St James Community—to move deeper into some more education on racial reconciliation, gender equality, etc.

We will be offering, to all in the congregation who are interested to join, a book read and discussion that should help us as individuals and as a faith community explore how race and gender affect our lives and what we might do to help address the issues facing us, our communities, our country, and the world. This book read and ensuing conversations will be a whole St James Church undertaking, but broken down into small groups for discussion. People will not be forced to participate, but I am encouraging people to take part. There will be group offerings at different times and days so people can choose what in this schedule might work best for them. We will read this book together starting **the week of January 10 through the week of February 14, 2021.**

The book we will be readings is, *Passionate for Justice: Ida B. Wells as Prophet for Our Time* by Catherine Meeks and Nibs Stroupe. The book is not a biography of Ida Wells but is rather a tool for us to learn how we can get to reconciliation and actually become a beloved community. The authors and Ida are people from faith communities and encouragers of faith communities to Become Beloved Communities, so I believe this can help us on our journey. We are on a journey, and we are not all in the same place on that journey, so this process will help us to grow and learn and journey together.

If you have not heard of Ida, her story is quite remarkable in many ways. This book is written with her story in mind but dealing with our current context. Meeks and Stroupe argue Wells's life spans a pivotal intersection of racial and gender oppression within American history—which launches their examination of present-day white supremacy. While the biography section is brief, the subsequent analysis is deeply moving. This book is a guide for the current state of affairs in American culture, enlivened by the historical perspective of Wells' search for justice.

Meeks, a black woman, is the retired Professor of Socio-Cultural Studies at Wesleyan College and the Director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing. Stroupe, a white man, and child of white supremacy is a retired pastor of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church and a nationally recognized leader in the multicultural and racial justice ministry. The authors have dedicated themselves to working, writing, and developing ministries oriented toward justice, equity, and mercy.

This is a fairly short book (160 pages) and not difficult to read. There are discussion questions at the end of each chapter so group conversations can be guided by those questions. We will read and discuss one chapter a week.

Here are the ways to participate in this book read

running the week of January 10 the week of February 15:

1. Sundays at 8:45AM during bible study, with Amma Diane facilitating.
2. Mondays at 10:00AM, with Joan Estes facilitating.
3. The Vestry will be reading this as a group, with Amma Diane facilitating.
4. For people who cannot join either group 1 or 2, you will be able to participate in the discussion by one-on-one phone conversations, which Amma Diane will coordinate. Let her know if you'd like this option.

Amma Diane will cover the cost of the books (paperback is what's available) and see that people get them (with some help to be sure). If people want to contribute to the cost (\$15) of the book they are welcome to, but Amma does not want the cost to be a reason people do not participate. The book is also available in Kindle and Nook format (about \$11.99) and audiobooks, Audible \$9.78 or 1 credit if you are a member, also on Apple Books and Kobo. The authors read the audiobook.

I hope you'll accept the invitation to join us in this all-church book read! Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Blessings,
Amma Diane+



NEW! [“Slow Down. Quiet. It’s Advent” Calendars available](#)

If you would like a poster-size coloring calendar for Advent this year please contact Anne Schuette (920-242-2819). Or pick up a calendar from Anne at our Adopt-a-Family “parking lot event” on November 29 from 11:30AM to 12:30PM. The Forward Movement calendar has 26 days of Advent inspiration, and ties in to the scripture readings and special celebrations that lead up to Christmas.

NEW! [St James Book Group year-end meeting 12/16](#)

The Book Group is having an end-of-the-year on-line meeting on Wednesday, December 16 at 7PM. The group will select books to read in 2021 and share a little “cheer”. Email Anne Schuette (schuette57@hotmail.com) to suggest book titles or obtain the “selection list.” All are welcome to attend this meeting by using the web link below or phoning in. We borrow our books from the Manitowoc Public Library interlibrary loan service so members do not have to purchase a copy. Use the info below to participate. Please call Anne Schuette (920-242-2819) if you have any questions, or if you have problems connecting on the evening of the meeting.

To participate from any phone, dial 1-571-317-3122
When prompted for Access Code, enter 898 340 413 #
If prompted for Audio Pin, enter #

By computer or other device: go.mysjec.com/bookgroup

NEW! [Meals On Wheels volunteers needed 12/7-12/11](#)

St James members and friends will deliver Meals on Wheels the week of December 7 - 11. Volunteers deliver meals to six senior living facilities. Volunteers wear masks and do not enter the Senior Center. Meals are delivered at the doorway of each building with limited contact with residents. Please call Anne Schuette (920-242-2819) if you'd like to volunteer or have questions.

UPDATED! [Return Adopt-A-Family gifts 11/29](#)

For the 3rd year, St James is again participating in this outreach to our community. Thanks to everybody who picked up gift tags on November 8. All gifts are due back to the church parking lot on November 29 (again no Packer game conflict) from 11:30AM-12:30PM. Remember that gifts must be UNWRAPPED. This allows the parents to see what the children are receiving and gives them the chance to wrap them. (By the way, donating gift wrap is a wonderful way to participate.) Amma Diane will bless the gifts before we take them to the Salvation Army that week.

We still have some gifts available (including Scrip), so contact Karleen if you'd like to participate. We are happy to stop by your home (contact-free) to drop off tags or pick up gifts. If you have questions, please call Karleen at 920-629-0435 or email her at colekarleen@gmail.com

UPDATED! [Food pantry donations needed 11/29](#)

Last year we had great participation in our Reverse Advent Calendar, collecting items to be donated to support local food pantry Peter's Pantry. Poverty and hunger have increased over the course of this year, so donations are appreciated! On Sunday, November 29 from 11:30-12:30PM, Amma Diane will be at the church along with collection bins for your donations of non-perishable food items and personal care items. (These are the same days/times as the adopt-a-family pick-up and drop-off.) You can also make a financial contribution (make your check out to St James and put "food pantry" in memo.)

[Help the Salvation Army during this special season](#)

The Salvation Army Food pantry is looking for volunteers. The pantry especially needs someone who could drive the box truck for food pick-ups on Monday, Tuesday and/or Friday (usually from around 8AM-10:30AM.) The van makes scheduled stops at various stores and food outlets. The driver helps to load and unload the van. Other pantry shifts are Monday 9AM-noon & 1PM-4PM, Tuesday 1PM-4PM, Wednesday 9AM-noon & 1PM-4PM. Helpers may get together orders for families, log donations, or distribute food when families arrive at pre-scheduled pick-up times. COVID - 19 precautions are maintained at all times. As we start getting our Toy Shop ready, we need a few extra people to help count and sort toys, and then help with selecting and bagging up gifts for families. Shifts are available the week of Nov. 30 – Dec. 3 and Dec. 7 & 8. Shifts typically run 9AM-noon and 1PM-4PM. But any time you have available would be a great help! We are limiting the number of people in the Toy Shop at one time and we also require masks and ask volunteers to have their temperature taken and answer a couple of COVID-19 related questions. As always, bell ringers are needed this season. You can schedule your own shifts at www.registertoring.com or call the office to get more information or sign up for any of these opportunities.

[Vestry Notes—updated 11/20](#)

- ◆ **NEW!** The Vestry will be making special deliveries to every household this Thanksgiving week, including an Advent devotional and a letter from the Vestry. As with our previous deliveries, we will arrange a time when possible, and make the delivery with safety precautions and minimal interaction.
- ◆ **UPDATED!** Security Luebke has completed the first phase of building work, including: correcting sealant failure around windows, metal trim, masonry control joints, counter flashing, scupper joints, and masonry coping, as well as clearing debris from and patching the damaged Chapel flat roof. The Sanctuary roof replacement is scheduled to begin December 21 and is expected to take approximately two weeks.
- ◆ In our August 16 letter, the Vestry shared that the earliest we might resume in-person activities is November 29. Due to continuing acceleration of the spread of COVID in our county and state, the Vestry has decided to **update that timeline to late January**. We are hopeful that conditions will begin to improve soon so we can make plans to gather in person in the near future. Be safe!
- ◆ The Bishop and diocesan parliamentarian have issued guidance regarding options to modify typical plans for Annual Meetings (including elections). Our congregation is subject to the diocesan canons and ultimately our bishop's authority. Bishop Matt has authorized that "The Vestry postpones the Annual Meeting until they determine it can be held in person" and that "Wardens and Vestry members continue in their positions until elections occur." When we can gather again in relative safety, we'll schedule the Annual Meeting and begin a nominations process. In January we'll again assess the feasibility of in-person gatherings and share another update. We do not want to postpone this indefinitely. We will produce our Annual Report in January—we'll solicit for reports in December.
- ◆ The next regular public Vestry meeting is scheduled for **5:30-7PM on Tuesday, December 8**. Connection information and the meeting agenda will be included in the 11/29 *St James Weekly*.
- ◆ **UPDATED!** **Manitowoc County COVID-19 total positive cases was at 4,317 as of November 19 (up from 3,925 on November 13), with 29 deaths. Current active cases increased to 2,036. Our county and state remain among the highest spread in our nation. Local and state health departments continue to urge making use of proper precautions and limiting non-essential travel and interaction.**

Your St James Episcopal Church Vestry is having regular 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.

Share your holiday photos!

We need your photo contributions for the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons.

- ◆ Please send photos of your nativity creches, manger scenes, etc. These can be of any style or design.
- ◆ Please send photos of your favorite Advent/Christmas decorations, trees, lights, wreaths, family/friend photos, events, concerts, holiday memories, or anything else holiday-related (indoor or outdoor).

Please share your photos to be included in the videos for our Worship services. Send in as many as you like. As with photo requests for our previous Worship services, we do not include names or other identifying information for privacy. Please send your photos to Tony Karl (email them to info@mysjec.com, text them to him, or drop them off at his house and he can scan them for you). Please send your photos as soon as possible. Thanks!

Scrip upcoming order dates 12/6, 1/10, 2/14

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. 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. Contact Amma Diane or Tammy if you need an order form.

NEW! Deena Giriappa

Our beloved sister in Christ, Deena Giriappa, passed away Sunday, November 15 from complications of her chronic medical issues. We mourn the loss of Deena's presence with us, while we celebrate the resurrection she shares in with Jesus Christ. Please keep Deena's loved ones in your prayers during this difficult time. Public visitation and a private family funeral took place on November 21.



UPDATED! Prayers for the Week

Healing, Comfort & Strength: Karen & Bob, Bonnie, Andrew, Brenden, Steve & Marybeth, Virginia, Tom, Mary, Carol, Elizabeth, Vanessa, Terry, Debbie, Bonnie, Don & Beth, Faith, Susie, Marty & Nancy, Peggy, Joe Mike, Chip, Jim, Bill, Steven, Billy, Len & Margaret, Hugh, Geri, Candace, Ray, Joan, Jane, Mollie, Liese, Lori, Sharon, Toby's father Walter, Chris, Jim and Mary, Peter, Stephen, Mary, Chris's sister Vicki, Randy & Cindy, Mike, Gary, Grace, Charlie, Edie, the family & friends of Deena

Guidance & Discernment: Tim, Guy & Mary, Kurt, Ronald, Alison, Margaret, Frankie, Brian & Lisa, Johnathon, Ginny & Karen, Annie & Tom, Kim, Lishane, Mary, Kevin, Cherity

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

Additional Prayers we offer include: For Peace in our world... for the people of Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Sudan, and missionary families. In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for ministry with youth in the Diocese. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Church in Bermuda. For people living with mental illness. For Painting Pathways Clubhouse special prayers as they move into their new building. 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 the people around the world affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Pray for an end to racism and social injustice in our country and around the world. Pray for people around the world dealing with severe weather and related damage, injury and deaths.

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, Audrey & Clayton, Pat, Myrna, Cindy, Joe, Paul, Clarence, Allen, Deena Giriappa

UPDATED! Milestones

We pray for those celebrating milestones:

Anniversaries: 12/13 Cindy & Randy Hronek; 12/18 Jack & Ruby Gunderson.

Birthdays: 11/22 Chuck Wernecke; 11/23 Mike Laughrin; 12/2 Todd Reckelberg; 12/4 Chris Couris; 12/11 Wyatt Franz; 12/11 Geri Walker; 12/14 Grace Valli; 12/20 Nancy Sim; 12/25 Sharon Meany; 12/27 Patrick Byrd.

If you would like your prayer requests to be included on our list, or to add a milestone, please contact Amma Diane Murray by phone (920-860-5152) or email (dianemarie.murray@gmail.com).