



ST JAMES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MANITOWOC

An inviting safe community for all

St James Weekly **for the week of December 12, 2021**

St James Episcopal Church
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920-684-8256 (church office)
info@mysjec.com
mysjec.com
facebook.com/sjecmanitowoc

The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector
920-860-5152 (cell phone)
920-894-5245 (daytime phone)
dianemarie.murray@gmail.com
*Please contact Amma Diane with
any pastoral care or other needs.*

**COVID precaution: Masks and distancing are
currently required for all present for all St James
Episcopal Church indoor group activities. Thanks!**

Recurring Schedule

Bible Study Sundays at 8:30AM (in-person/Zoom)

We are discussing the 13 chapters of 2 Corinthians, which will take us through the end of the year. Use any bible translation(s) you like; no other book/guide needed.

12/12 chapter 11; 12/19 chapter 12; 12/26 chapter 13

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 computer or other device: go.mysjec.com/biblestudy

Worship—Sundays at 10AM (in-person/online)

Attend in-person at 10AM, or participate LIVE at 10AM or view at any time after on YouTube (video links are also shared on Facebook):

go.mysjec.com/youtube go.mysjec.com/facebook

12/12: Third Sunday of Advent

12/19: Fourth Sunday of Advent

12/26: First Sunday of Christmas—Christmas Hymn Sing

Fellowship—Sundays at 11:15AM (in-person)

Join us for a weekly time of conversation after worship in our lower level Fellowship Hall. Due to COVID, we are not having food/drink at this time.

Mid-Week Worship—Wednesdays at 4PM (Zoom)

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 7:00AM (Zoom)

To participate from any phone, dial 1-312-626-6799
When prompted for Meeting ID, enter 831 5230 0483 #
When prompted for Participant ID, press #
When prompted for Password, enter 0 # [number zero]
By computer or other device: go.mysjec.com/friday

UPDATED! **Help us spread holiday cheer!**

**Cookie/treat donations needed by 12/12;
help us prepare deliveries on 12/12**

Help us spread holiday cheer for the Advent and Christmas seasons! We're preparing Christmas cookies and other treats to distribute to all the households of our congregation, along with some year-end materials from the Vestry. Our goal is to collect a total of about 65 dozen cookies, candies, and/or other holiday treats, as well as 65 cookie tins/holiday containers/bags to share. Your donations of any of these items is appreciated.

We need your help after 10AM Worship on Sunday, December 12 (the Packers play at 7:20PM) to help us sort and package the items. (Everybody should remain masked.) Volunteers can deliver to those who aren't at church on December 12, and those who are present can take their treats with them. If you have other questions, please contact Tony Karl or Amma Diane. Thanks!

Christmas Poinsettia donations

Help make our Sanctuary extra special during the Christmas season. You may donate toward our Christmas poinsettia in honor/memory of your loved ones and cherished moments. Donations may be put in the offering plate or mailed to the church—include a note including any "in honor of", "in memory of", or "in celebration of" intentions. Please make donations and intentions by December 12.

Share your holiday/nativity photos by 12/19

We need your photo contributions for the upcoming Christmas season services:

- ◆ 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 slideshows during our Worship services. Send in as many as you like. We'll also re-use photos you shared last year unless we hear otherwise from you. 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 Worship Coordinator Tony Karl (email them to info@mysjec.com, text them to him, or give them to him and he can scan them for you). Please send your photos as soon as possible. Thanks!

Bring Reverse Advent donations through 12/19

See the back page of St James Weekly for our Reverse Advent Calendar. You can bring food/personal care items any time to add to our donation collection in the front of the Sanctuary (near the piano). You can add items before, during, or after Worship. Bring items any Sunday or every Sunday between now and 12/19. Items will be delivered to Peter's Pantry after 12/19 Worship.

Help decorate the church on 12/19; please bring your nativity scenes to display

All are invited to stay after 10AM Worship on Sunday 12/19 to help decorate our church for the Christmas season. In addition to the decorations on hand, we'd like to set up a special display of your nativity scenes in the front of the Sanctuary (you can bring more than one). Bring yours to Worship on 12/19 (or earlier if you'll be absent 12/19) and take them home after Worship on 1/2.

Blue Christmas 12/21 at 5:30PM

Blue Christmas services are typically held on or near the Winter Solstice—the longest night of the year. This special service honors the different types of grief, loss, and pain we or others are experiencing in this season, and helps us look toward the hope of Jesus Christ. Join us at St James at 5:30PM on Tuesday, December 21 as we Worship together with our Presbyterian and UCC friends.

You can also participate LIVE at 5:30PM or view at any time after on YouTube (video links are also shared on Facebook): go.mysjec.com/youtube

If participating at home, you can have an Advent wreath or any five candles on hand to light as you view the service, if you like.



Christmas Eve Worship 12/24 at 6:30PM

Join us starting at 6:30PM on Friday 12/24 for a musical prelude celebrating Christ's birth. Anybody who'd like to sing or play a song is welcome to do so—talk to Tony Karl or Amma Diane if you are interested or have questions.



Worship begins at 7PM, includes festive music, and ends with our Sanctuary softly glowing by candle light.

You can also participate LIVE or view at any time after on YouTube (video links are also shared on Facebook): go.mysjec.com/youtube

Christmas Hymn Sing Worship 12/26 at 10AM

Christmas Season lasts through Epiphany (1/6). 10AM Worship on Sunday 12/26 will continue the celebration of Christ's birth with a Christmas hymn sing. Barb Cook will be on hand to tickle the ivories for this special celebration. Be ready to request your favorite Christmas songs from our blue *Hymnal 1982* book.

NEW! **St James Book Group meets 12/15 at 7PM**

The St James Book Group will meet via Zoom throughout the winter months. Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 15 at 7PM, and we'll talk about book ideas for 2022.

We've already selected the book *Circe* by Madeline Miller for our January 26 meeting. Books are available through the library, most book stores, and through online retailers, and Kindle and audiobooks are available.

As always, even if you have not read the book you are welcome to join in the discussion. If you have technical difficulties contact Amma Diane Murray 920-860-5152.

To participate from any phone, dial 1-312-626-6799

When prompted for Meeting ID, enter 873 5481 2492 #

When prompted for Participant ID, press #

When prompted for Password, enter 0 # [number zero]

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



Scrip upcoming order dates 12/12 & 1/9

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 we receives goes into our Outreach Fund. Contact Eleanor Agnew or Amma Diane if you need an order form or have any questions.



Final week for our Thankful Tree!

This is the last week of the Thankful Tree in the vestibule of St James for several weeks. This tree is designed so we can express our gratitude in writing. For many, writing something down helps us remember that thing more. What better things to remember than those we are thankful for? Please take a leaf and write down what you are thankful for. Use as many leaves as you like to list the things you are grateful for (you do not need to include your name). Then you can pin your leaves on the tree. We will keep the Thankful Tree up for several weeks so everybody has a chance to add and read their leaves.

If you have any questions, talk to Eleanor Agnew.

Thanks for your support!

We appreciate your continued financial support while we are being the church in these different ways. Checks can be mailed to or dropped off at the church. You can also set up payments through your bank or donate online at mysjec.com/donate. Please contact Amma Diane if you need help connecting to assistance or resources. **Our special offering for the month of December goes to the Rector's discretionary fund—please label accordingly.**

UPDATED! [Prayers for the Week](#)

Healing/Comfort/Strength: Brenden, Steve & Marybeth, Virginia, Carol, Elizabeth, Vanessa, Terry, Debbie, Bonnie, Don & Beth, Faith, Susie, Peggy, Chip, Steven, Len & Margaret, Ray, Mollie, Walter, Mary, Vicki, Randy & Cindy, Charlie, Grace, Silas, Cathy, Don, Laurie, Chris & Nicole, Sharon & her family, Jenny, Jean, Ron B, Candace, Paul's family, Alena, Janet, Mary Jean, Matthew Couris, Gregg & Kim Eggert, Mel Ouradnik & family.

Guidance & Discernment: Tim, Guy & Mary, Kurt, Ronald, Alison, Frankie, Brian & Lisa, Ginny & Karen, Annie & Tom, Mary, Sara, Ethan, Scott.

Serving in the Military: Jordan, Daniel, Ian, Logan, Keaton, Ashlee, Adam, Marshall, Jacob.

Additional Prayers we offer include: For Peace in our world... for the people of Afghanistan, Haiti, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Sudan, Madagascar and missionary families. In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for Diocesan staff and ministries. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Canada. For the Dioceses of Fond du Lac, Eau Claire, and Milwaukee. 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 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 pray for those in the world who do not have enough to eat, may we help to keep food available to all. For our continued safe return to in-person worship, other ministries and groups.

We offer thanks for: Diane our Rector, Chris and Mary, our Wardens, our Vestry and other ministry leaders, staff, and every person in this congregation. Bishop Matt 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 Rt Rev Godfrey and his wife Albertina.

We Pray for the Departed: Tom & Audrey, Audrey & Clayton, Pat, Myrna, Cindy, Joe, Paul, Clarence & Liese, Deena, Troy, Helen, Shirley Ouradnik.

UPDATED! [Milestones](#)

We pray for those celebrating milestones:

Birthdays: 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; 12/28 Mary Kaufmann.

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

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).

NEW! [Vestry Meeting 12/20 at 5:30PM](#)

The Vestry will hold a regular business meeting using Zoom video conferencing on Monday 12/20 starting at 5:30PM. Guests from the congregation are welcome to attend. The Vestry asks that all guests also have their video cameras active throughout the meeting. Use the following link to connect to the meeting:

go.mysjec.com/vestry

Agenda topics will include:

- ◆ Sharing/Opening prayer
- ◆ Study/Reflection
- ◆ Updates from Diocese & Ecumenical group
- ◆ Treasurer transition update
- ◆ Standard year-end resolutions
- ◆ Approve minutes & Receive financial reports
- ◆ Closing prayer

If you have any questions, please contact Amma Diane.

If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns, please talk to any of the Vestry: Amma Diane (*Rector*); Chris Dee Eggert-Rosenthal & Mary Green (*Wardens*), Nick Doszkewycz, Rich Hall, & Kim Kaufmann (*Vestrypersons*), Tony Karl (*Clerk*); and Linda Molitor (*Treasurer*).

NEW! [12/9 message from the Episcopal Bishops of Wisconsin Regarding COVID guidance](#)

Dear Friends in Christ,

While we are grateful to God for the progress we have made in keeping people safe from COVID infection, we are writing today to remind Episcopalians in the State of Wisconsin that the pandemic is not over. Indeed, we now know that the most recently detected variant, Omicron, has been detected in our state. The data is still being collected, but it seems clear that this variant is significantly more transmissible than Delta and that current vaccines and boosters do not prevent transmission in all cases. We do know that vaccinations and boosters still provide important protection against developing the most serious illness and hospitalization.

This is a moment to ask all of our congregations to continue to take the pandemic with due seriousness and care. Let us recommit ourselves to the responsible, careful practices we have learned over the past months. In order to keep one another as safe as possible, we strongly encourage masking and social distancing when we gather. We urge every eligible member of the church to be fully vaccinated and to receive appropriate booster shots. We commend the continuation of virtual options for worship and other meetings. And we commend the guidelines adopted in most of our churches regarding masking, social distancing, and the reception of Holy Communion.

These are challenging times for us all, but we are members of the Body of Christ who is the light of the world. In these Advent days leading to the Christmas Feast, let us renew our trust in the God who is with us in every circumstance, in every challenge or time of uncertainty or fear. Let us commit ourselves to be bearers of God's light and love to one another and to the world.

In Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter
Bishop of the Diocese of Fond du Lac
Bishop Provisional the Diocese of Eau Claire

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee
Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of Milwaukee

Advent Reflections from the Wardens (Chris Eggert-Rosenthal & Mary Green)

As Advent begins, we are reflecting on the many things our congregation has continued, started, or strengthened in the past few months of this ongoing pandemic. We would like to share with you some of our thoughts and appreciations about Life at St James:

1. We just completed our adopt-a-family mission project, providing requested gifts for family members. This annual program is organized by the Salvation Army and always brings joy to the givers as well as the recipients. We have been doing this for several years (following a decade of doing this for our Homework Club families). We are grateful to Karleen Cole for coordinating.
2. Since early 2020, we make deliveries to every household a few times a year, including info and resources, as well as fun things like St James-branded items and treats. On December 11 we'll gather to bake together, and on December 12 we'll assemble and make our second annual distribution of sweet treats and information to all St James households. The project will be one of our first large group activities besides in-person Worship. We are anticipating a great fellowship opportunity.
3. The Reverse Advent Calendar is another way we reach out to serve our community and share our resources with others. See the back page of St James Weekly.
4. Thank you to Eleanor Agnew for creating a Thankful Tree on our vestibule bulletin board. All are encouraged to add leaves to express their gratitude. This is another way we can connect to each other. Watch for another bulletin board update for Christmas season.
5. In the spirit of Community, we have resumed posting faith/prayer memes several times per week on our Facebook page. These are offered to provide encouragement, spark prayer, and nurture spiritual growth. These are sharable and have been well received by both St James members and friends. This helps extend our reach to the Facebook community who might not otherwise be aware of St James.
6. We are grateful to Donna Franz who faithfully sends cards and notes to those celebrating milestones, to Eleanor Agnew who is now working with our Scrip program, and to Liz Foster who coordinates our calling tree.
7. Barb Cook (who grew up in St James) and her husband John moved back to Manitowoc and became members of St James last year during COVID. Barb is now playing piano some weeks as part of our music ministry, and we are grateful for her gifts.
8. Dave Haefke, Murray Sim, Steve Thuss, and other volunteers help with repairs and maintenance to keep our building comfortable and safe. Plaster repair continues and we look forward to the upcoming completion of this restoration project. (Murray also works as our Sexton to keep the building clean.)
9. We have resumed Fellowship Hour after Sunday Worship, building community with conversation. We look forward to having refreshments, snacks, and treats as soon as it is safe and reasonable to do. In the meantime, we continue safe masking/distancing practices to keep all of us safe regardless of our vaccination status.
10. Another way that we connect is through the monthly second Saturday fellowship time. This will continue to be a hybrid offering (in-person and via Zoom) for those who cannot or do not wish to participate in person. This will also enable us to gather during inclement weather.
11. The St James book club will be meeting via Zoom for the near future and will continue to welcome everyone. You need not have read the book to participate. Our group represents a variety of backgrounds and we have many opportunities to see books in various lights. This brings depth to the discussions, as well as an ability to grow.
12. Our weekly Bible Study again provides an opportunity to share ideas and learn from each other. We explore different translations of Scripture to provide greater understanding of words written so long ago. This weekly class is both in-person and Zoom to provide access to all.
13. Our Wednesday mid-week Worship and Friday Morning Prayer continue to be offered by Zoom.
14. Looking ahead, to continue our community outreach, we will be setting up a Little Free Library (LFL) at St James this Spring. The LFL movement is widespread, including many throughout Manitowoc.
15. Next Spring we also look forward to creating our own labyrinth in our parking lot. This meditative tool is another way of bringing St James into the community. Thanks to Pat Hanson for beautifully resurfacing and striping our parking lot this fall.
16. We will be relocating our church mailbox from the 8th St steps to our State St doors to provide safer drops for our mail carriers and members drop off items.
17. One of our major community (and wider) outreach tools has been the expansion of our online presence. We are grateful to Amma Diane, Tony Karl, Glenn Davidowich, Pat Hanson, Fr Jerry Molitor, and Chris Couris for helping provide our pre-recorded Worship services from March 2020 through October 2021. Pat Hanson was invaluable in setting up our cameras and everything else needed for livestreaming, which we started this October. We are grateful to our livestreaming Media Team of Pat Hanson, Tony Karl, and Steve Phillips who will produce and operate things moving forward. All of these people have contributed to making our online presence a huge success. Our media production values have been highly complimented and have helped us stay connected inside our congregation, around our community, and with people from other cities, states, and even countries.

As your Wardens, we welcome your feedback, input, questions, and suggestions for strengthening connection and community within St James and our world. We'll both gladly respond to your calls, texts, or emails:

Chris Eggert-Rosenthal
334-546-4282
cnor1101@yahoo.com

Mary Green
920-323-7598
greenapple@lsol.net



We close with these thoughts: *May we be alert to your promptings and live in your endless love. We pray for all , through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. AMEN!*

Reverse Advent Calendar

Food insecurity and other needs remains high in Manitowoc County. Please join us for another Reverse Advent Calendar, collecting various items to donate to Peter's Pantry. Each week, collect items to donate and bring them to church. We'll gather them together in a designated area and watch our generosity grow. After December 19, we'll deliver the items. The list below are ideas for each day, but other non-perishables are always welcome! If you aren't able to shop for items, you could contribute a check payable to St James with the memo "Reverse Advent".

Monday, November 22 - box of cereal

Tuesday, November 23 - jar of peanut butter

Wednesday, November 24 - stuffing mix

Thursday, November 25 - boxed potatoes

Friday, November 26 - macaroni & cheese

Saturday, November 27 - can of fruit

Sunday, November 28 - deodorant

Monday, November 29 - can of tuna

Tuesday, November 30 - pudding cups or gelatin cups

Wednesday, December 1 - can of tomatoes

Thursday, December 2 - can of beans/legumes

Friday, December 3 - applesauce jar or cups

Saturday, December 4 - jar of jelly/jam/preserves

Sunday, December 5 - soap/body wash

Monday, December 6 - can of chicken

Tuesday, December 7 - box of crackers

Wednesday, December 8 - package of rice

Thursday, December 9 - package of oatmeal

Friday, December 10 - package of dry pasta

Saturday, December 11 - pasta sauce

Sunday, December 12 - hair care products

Monday, December 13 - can or bag soup mix

Tuesday, December 14 - bottle of juice

Wednesday, December 15 - can of vegetables

Thursday, December 16 - package of cookies

Friday, December 17 - tea bags or instant coffee

Saturday, December 18 - oral hygiene items