



ST JAMES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MANITOWOC

An inviting safe community for all

St James Weekly for the week starting December 4, 2022

St James Episcopal Church
434 N 8th St, Manitowoc, WI 54220
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.*

**Masks are optional for all church activities.
Distancing is still a safer practice. Thanks!**

Recurring Schedule

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

Join us as we discuss the season of Advent. Talk to Amma Diane if you have any questions.

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

12/6 Second Sunday of Advent
12/13 Third Sunday of Advent
12/20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
12/25 Christmas Day
1/1 New Year's Day—Christmas Hymn Sing
1/8 Epiphany 1—The Baptism of Our Lord
1/15 Epiphany 2—Remembering MLK Jr

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

Please join us downstairs after worship each week for refreshments, snacks, and conversation. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided. We invite anybody who is interested to bring snacks/treats to share any week.

Mid-Week Worship—Wed at 4:30PM (Zoom)

By computer or other device: go.mysjec.com/Wednesday
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 7:00AM (Zoom)

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

Monthly congregational chat 12/4

The Vestry invites all to stay after worship on Sunday 12/4 for the fourth of our monthly congregational chats. All are welcome to participate. Each month the Vestry will have one or more topics to solicit ideas and feedback from you. The topic on 12/4 will be the Trialogue process for the possible reunification of the 3 Episcopal Dioceses in Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Eau Claire, and our Fond du Lac). The Trialogue's Parish Engagement Task Force is asking congregations to share their thoughts, hopes, concerns, and fears about the possible reunification. Information handouts have been available in church and in the weekly email. We'll gather your feedback during our chat to share with the task force.

We plan these chats to typically last 20-30 minutes, but they could run longer, if needed. Please join us for these chats! **If you are unable to attend in person, please send your thoughts to info@mysjec.com or share them with Clerk Tony Karl.**

Next St James/Painting Pathways event 12/8

Painting Pathways Clubhouse supports and empowers those with mental illness in Manitowoc County by building community and supporting recovery. PPC is one of our long-term ministry partners: several people from St James were instrumental in helping this non-profit form in Manitowoc; we've provided work opportunities; we supported the capital campaign for their new building; and we let them use our building during their construction.

In October we began a series of events to strengthen our relationships as individuals beyond our larger organizations. St James brought pot luck dishes to share. It was a wonderful evening—thanks to all who participated! **On Thursday, December 8 from 4-6PM we'll gather again at PPC (1226 Washington St) to enjoy a meal and fellowship, including games with their members. Painting Pathways will provide the food, but a head count will help planning. There is a sign-up sheet in the church.**



PAINTING PATHWAYS
Clubhouse

Wanted: your photos of Amma Diane by 12/9

Please send us any photos you have of Amma Diane by December 9. Email them to info@mysjec.com, send them by text message to Tony Karl, or get him your printed photos to scan and return. Thanks!

NEW! [Would you like to be a Reader, Acolyte, and/or Eucharistic Minister? Let us know](#)

Would you like to be part of our rotation of Readers, Acolytes, and/or Eucharistic Ministers? We are always happy to add new people to this ministry. If this is something that interests you, please talk to Worship Coordinator Tony Karl for more info. Let us know by December 12 if you'd like to be added to the schedule.

[Help decorate the church on 12/10; bring nativity scenes to display](#)

All are invited to gather at 9AM on Saturday 12/10 to help decorate our church for the Christmas season. This will be our December monthly fellowship group activity. Please feel free to bring snacks/food if you like.

In addition to the decorations on hand, we'd like to again set up a special display of your nativity scenes in the front of the Sanctuary (you can bring more than one). Bring yours on Saturday 12/10, or bring it the previous Sunday if you can't make it on 12/10. Items will be displayed on 12/18, 12/24, 12/25, and 1/1.

[Christmas Poinsettia donations by 12/11](#)

Help make our Sanctuary extra special during the Christmas season. You may donate toward our Christmas poinsettias 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 11.

[Help us spread holiday cheer!](#)
[Visit from St Nicholas on 12/11;](#)
[Cookie/treat donations needed by 12/11;](#)
[help us prepare deliveries on 12/11](#)

Join us on Sunday 12/11 for a special fun day, and be sure to bring the kids/grandkids/friends along (Packers are off). 10AM Worship will include a special visit from St Nicholas who will share his story of his journey from bishop to a beloved Christmas hero.



Then, help us spread holiday cheer for the Advent and Christmas seasons! We'd like to once again prepare Christmas cookies/treats to distribute to all the households of our congregation. 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 these items can be brought to church any time between now and December 11 and left on the counters in the church kitchen.** If you bring items early, please make sure they are labeled and wrapped to stay fresh until mid-December.

We need your help after 10AM Worship on Sunday, December 11 (the Packers are off) to help us sort and package the items. Volunteers can deliver to those who aren't at church on December 11, and those who are present can take their treats with them. We'll also have a letter from the Vestry and other materials on that date. If you have other questions, please contact Tony Karl.

UPDATED! [Amma Diane's farewell party 12/18](#)

St James Episcopal Church is the oldest continually operating congregation of any type in Manitowoc County. Our origins trace to missionary pastors starting in 1841. We organized formally as a congregation in 1848, the year Wisconsin gained statehood.

Since 1848, St James has been served by 41 pastors, including The Rev Diane M Murray (Amma Diane) who will be retiring as our Rector on 12/31/2022 after 13.5 years. Only two pastors in our 181-year history served our congregation for longer durations: William Harvey (27 years) and Franklin St Clair (23 years). We are grateful for the 13.5 years Amma Diane has served as our Rector, as well as the prior 1.5 years she ministered with us while she was a Deacon.

On Sunday, December 18, we will celebrate with a farewell party (Packers are off). Following 10AM Worship we'll all meet at the Harrigan Parkside Gathering Center 2 blocks away for a catered meal. We want everybody to have the opportunity to celebrate, so there will be no tickets/charge. **We need a head count, so please add your names on the sign-up sheet as soon as possible.**

We'll start with appetizers and a cash bar. At about 12:30 we'll have a sit-down meal including broasted chicken and vegetarian lasagna. We'll also include a special presentation. Things should wrap up around 1:30. St James will cover the cost of this event. Anybody who would like to help defray the costs can label their contribution "Farewell party".

[Cards for Amma Diane](#)

We encourage everybody to make their own expressions of thanks for Amma Diane's ministry with us at St James. We'll have a decorative box in the Sanctuary for those who would like to add cards for Amma Diane.

[Christmas Eve Worship 12/24 at 6:30PM;](#)
[Christmas Day Worship 12/25 at 10AM;](#)
[Christmas Hymn Sing Worship 1/1 at 10AM](#)

Join us starting at 6:30PM on **Saturday 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 Worship Coordinator Tony Karl if you are interested or have questions. Worship begins at 7PM, with a Lessons & Carols format and festive music, ending with our Sanctuary softly glowing by candle light.



Gather for Amma Diane's last Sunday with St James, at 10AM on **Sunday 12/25**, as we celebrate Christmas one last time together.

Christmas Season lasts through Epiphany (1/6). 10AM Worship on **Sunday 1/1** 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! [Volunteers needed: printing/mailing](#)

One of the tasks that we'll need to cover when Amma Diane retires 12/31 is printing the worship bulletins in the church office and putting several in the mail. This is an important task that needs to happen on time every week, so we'll need one or more volunteers willing to commit to helping with this task. Amma Diane currently does this Sundays before worship, but this could also be done any time Friday or Saturday. Please talk to Worship Coordinator Tony Karl or Junior Warden Mary Green if you are interested in helping.. We'll work with volunteers to provide training and arrange a schedule. Thanks!

NEW! [Book Group 12/14 at 7PM \(in-person/Zoom\)](#)

The St James Book Group is meeting in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom. Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 12/14 at 7PM. Contact Joan Estes or Chris Eggert-Rosenthal about the book of the month or if you have other questions. You do not have to have read the book to join in our discussions, so join us when you can.

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

[Vestry Notes](#)

- The Vestry has formally notified Bishop Matt of our acceptance of the retirement of The Rev'd Diane M Murray as our Rector, effective 31 December 2022, with gratitude for her ministry with us since 2009. We are working with Diocesan Transition Officer, The Rev'd Meredyth Albright, to begin the first steps of the transition process. We'll include many updates about this process in the packets we'll distribute on December 11 along with the cookie swap project.
- As of 10/31/2022, our year-to-date income is \$97,764 on a YTD budget of \$94,161. Our YTD expenses are \$100,554 on a YTD budget of \$103,673. This results in a YTD deficit of \$2,790 (better than projected). Lower expenses are primarily because we have not yet started as many building projects as originally imagined. Thank you for your continued support of our mission and ministry! Complete financial reports are posted outside the office.
- Thank you to everybody who helped make our Thanksgiving celebration at St James a joyful event! It was our first Thanksgiving together since 2019.

[Thanks for your support!](#)

We appreciate your continued financial support while we are being the church in these different ways. Checks can be left in the offering plate, or mailed to/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: Steve & Marybeth, Vanessa, Debbie, Silas, Geno, Bonnie, Bonnie & Charlie, Marcia & John, Chip & Janice, Steven, Mary, Vicki, Matthew, Shelley, Mike, Brian M, Sharon, Karen K., Nancy J. Brad & Lizzie, Linda, Connie, Nancy J, Nancy & Clayton, Fred, Marian, Richard, Amma Diane, James B., Jenny M., Sean D., Connie, Janet, Amanda L.

Guidance & Discernment: Tim, Guy & Mary, Kurt, Ronald, Alison, Susie, Brian & Lisa, Frankie, Deb & Jim, Joy's grandson.

Serving in the Military: Jordan, Ian, Logan, Keaton, Marshall, Jacob, Jack.

Additional Prayers we offer include: For Peace in our world... for the people of Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan, Haiti, Israel, Gaza, Sudan, Madagascar and missionary families. In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Paul's, Marinette and St Paul's Mission District Nharira, Masvingo. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East. For the Dioceses of Fond du Lac, Eau Claire, and Milwaukee and the dialogue taking place among them. For people living with mental illness. For Painting Pathways Clubhouse. Hope House families. The men of The Haven. People at the Warming Shelter. 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 violence, 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.

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 Bishop Osiward Mapika, 2nd Bishop of the Diocese of Masvingo.

We Pray for the Departed: Bill, Audrey & Clayton, Pat, Myrna, Cindy, Joe, Paul, Deena, Shirley, Margaret & Leonard, Jack, Mary, Joe; and all who have died as a result of gun violence.

UPDATED! [Milestones](#)

We pray for those celebrating milestones:

Birthdays: 12/2 Todd Reckelberg, 12/4 Chris Couris, 12/11 Wyatt Franz, 12/20 Nancy Sim, 12/25 Sharon Meany, 12/28 Mary Kaufmann

Anniversaries: 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).

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 18, 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 21 - box of cereal

Tuesday, November 22 - jar of peanut butter

Wednesday, November 23 - stuffing mix

Thursday, November 24 - boxed potatoes

Friday, November 25 - macaroni & cheese

Saturday, November 26 - can of fruit

Sunday, November 27 - deodorant

Monday, November 28 - can of tuna

Tuesday, November 29 - pudding cups or gelatin cups

Wednesday, November 30 - can of tomatoes

Thursday, December 1 - can of beans/legumes

Friday, December 2 - applesauce jar or cups

Saturday, December 3 - jar of jelly/jam/preserves

Sunday, December 4 - soap/body wash

Monday, December 5 - can of chicken

Tuesday, December 6 - box of crackers

Wednesday, December 7 - package of rice

Thursday, December 8 - package of oatmeal

Friday, December 9 - package of dry pasta

Saturday, December 10 - pasta sauce

Sunday, December 11 - hair care products

Monday, December 12 - can or bag soup mix

Tuesday, December 13 - bottle of juice

Wednesday, December 14 - can of vegetables

Thursday, December 15 - package of cookies

Friday, December 16 - tea bags or instant coffee

Saturday, December 17 - oral hygiene items