



*An inviting safe community for all*

## **St James Weekly — May 17, 2020**

**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.*

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

**All activities are from home.** Per our bishop's guidelines, NO in-person worship services, meetings, gatherings, or other activity are permitted at St James Episcopal Church until further notice. Even if you have a key, please do not enter the building without talking to Amma Diane first. Thank you.

### **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 during Sunday Worship. We're keeping all phones muted throughout Worship so everybody can hear.*

### **Fellowship Sundays at 11AM (suspended until further notice)**

Attendance has been low since we started Zoom Fellowship, and was only staff the past few Sundays. Therefore, the Vestry decided to suspend Sunday Fellowship time by Zoom until a need arises. (This is not a bad thing--we'll continue to adapt our schedule of ways to worship, share, learn, and stay connected based on the needs of our congregation.) If this is something important to you that you'd like to participate in, please talk to Amma Diane.

### **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.

### **Pastoral letter from Amma Diane**

Dear St James Community,

On Thursday May 14, the clergy of our Diocese met remotely with our Bishop Matt Gunter to discuss how we go forward as Christians, Episcopalians, and members of the Diocese of Fond du Lac in this continuing coronavirus pandemic. We have been meeting with the Bishop weekly since this all began. The Bishop also has been meeting once or twice a week with the diocesan Covid-19 Task Force to keep all of us as aware as possible of all we should or should not do during this epidemic as we continue to be the church in all the places we find ourselves.

Although the Supreme Court of the State of Wisconsin struck down the state's "Safer at Home" guidelines, which makes the possibility to open all of Wisconsin up again a reality, The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Fond du Lac will not be "opening up" any time soon. This is also true of many other faith communities, businesses, and municipalities. Wisconsin is a "Home Rule State" so municipalities can set their own guidelines.

The leaders of our diocese and congregations will look at science and observable data as we seek to re-gather in person. Re-gathering will take place in phases and may be different in each of our locations and contexts. We will look to the guidance of our municipalities, and the medical professionals (such as the CDC) as we plan our re-gatherings. Some places that open may have to close again as the landscape changes. When we do re-gather it will not be the same as it was before Covid-19. There may be new guidelines: masks, sanitation to consider, seating arrangements, potentially no singing or Communion or Coffee Hour, etc.

There will be some grief and pain to be sure. When and how we re-gather will not be by vote of the congregation, but the clergy and leaders will continue to be in conversation with the congregation as we have been already in a variety of ways. We'll continue to share updates through *St James Weekly*.

For now at St James and most of the diocese and The Episcopal Church we will continue to do what we have been doing. We will lovingly take care of our neighbors and ourselves by being "Safer at Home". When we do begin to re-group in person we will also continue many of the new things we have done to stay together from a distance.

We continue to stay faithful to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is the Way of Love.

Blessings to you all,  
Amma Diane+

### Vestry Updates

The lower level carpet replacement project is complete.

Painting Pathways Clubhouse is beginning to move into our lower level. We are sharing our space with them while their building project takes place from now through November.

Our next regular Vestry meeting is tentatively scheduled for 6:30PM on Wednesday, June 3. Once that is confirmed we'll publish a link for those in the congregation who are interested in attending by Zoom.

### CARES Act charitable giving benefits

The CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act, signed into law on March 27, includes several provisions that benefit charitable giving. Beginning in 2020, individuals can deduct up to \$300 in charitable contributions from their gross income even if they do not itemize deductions. For 2020, the cap on itemized deductions for cash contributions is lifted, from 60% up to 100% of their income, a significant tax savings for anyone able to contribute larger amounts. Gifts of appreciated securities, and gifts to a donor advised fund or supporting organization, do not qualify for these benefits. These benefits are intended to encourage people to continue to support non-profit organizations, including churches, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Thanks for your support!

Several people have asked ways they can continue to financially support St James when we are not gathering in person. You can still mail checks to St James Episcopal Church, 434 N 8th St, Manitowoc, WI 54220. Contributions are being regularly counted and deposited. You can also set up one-time or recurring payments through your bank (most offer this for free). Look for "bill pay" or similar options online or call your bank. 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.

### Scrip may still be ordered—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.

June 14   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. Contact Amma Diane or Tammy if you need an order form.

### Building Needs

Per our Bishop's direction, please do not enter the building unless you've talked to Amma Diane. During the coronavirus shutdown If you are aware of anything inside or outside our building that needs attention or maintenance, please call Amma Diane Mon-Fri 6AM-3PM at 920-894-5245 or other times 920-860-5152. If there is an emergency, please call 911.

### 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, for recovery for Peggy, healing for Chris.

**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 St Mary's Chapel, Wautoma, Diocesan schools, hospitals and clinics of our Companion Diocese of Masvingo in Zimbabwe. In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for the Anglican Church of Korea. 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.

**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 April:**

Anniversaries: 6—Margaret & Leonard Coombs, 9—Mary Jean & Todd Reckelberg, 20—Marian & Nick Doszkewycz.

Birthdays: 4—Mayra Short, 5—Audrey Bean, 7—Noah & Owen Short, 15—Shirley Ouradnik, 20—Doris Hansen, 23—Patrick Hanson, 26—Nicholas Reckelberg.

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

### Forward Day by Day

If you regularly pick up a Forward Day by Day devotional book at the church, please contact Amma Diane and she'll arrange delivery to your home. Forward is also available online.

### Are you in need of a washable face mask?

There are people who will be happy to sew a washable face mask for you. Please contact Amma Diane or Mary Green if you would like one.