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# The Weekly Parish Light 2023

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St. James Episcopal Church · 2 S Augustine St. · Wilmington DE 19804 · 302-994-2029

**From the Rector – The Rev. Sarah Nelson  
November 25, 2023**



Happy Thanksgiving!

There is a Jewish tradition about offering mitzvahs for all the blessings in this life. I read a book one time about a woman who was studying to be a rabbi. The gentleman whom she was dating watched her process. He watched her diligently study scripture. He watched her learn and recall history and great leaders in the faith. He watched her teach others about the faith. He even watched as she served others. Yes, she was growing in her faith. The man was proud of the young rabbi in training and marveled at her commitment and dedication.

Then one day everything changed. The woman awoke and gave thanks for each of the occasions where she saw and felt the blessings of God. She began her day waking up: “Thank you, God, for this new day. Thank you, God, for eyes to behold this wonder. Thank you, God, for the breath that you first gave to me and which sustains me.” As she sat up she continued, “Thank you, God, for the muscles which support my body. Thank you for feet with which I can move. Thank you for arms with which I can embrace. Thank you for the possibilities that this day holds.” Well, that was the first 20 seconds of the day!

The young Rabbi was overwhelmed at the blessings which continually abounded in her life. Just living gratitude was a full-time job. Indeed, gratitude is not simply a moment but it is a way of being. It is true that there are times when life is difficult and when things do not go the way that we would desire. No Pollyannaish denial here. Opening our eyes and hearts to where our God is holding us, blessing us, caring for us is a full-time enterprise. Every breath that we take is a blessing, a miracle. Not just this one Thursday in November, but each and every moment of each and every day, let us pause, see where God is acting, and give thanks for all of the blessings of this life.

I hope you had a Very Happy Thanksgiving.

Faithfully,

Sarah

# CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023

**SUNDAY'S LITURGIES** – *Old Testament:* Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; *Psalm:* 100;  
*Epistle:* Ephesians 1:15-23; *Gospel:* Matthew 25:31-46.

## **LAY MINISTERS** –

<b>Director of Music Ministry:</b>	Dr. Michael Larkin	<b>Greeter:</b>	Penny Geist
<b>Worship Leader:</b>	Mary Hammond	<b>Usher:</b>	Carol Hall
<b>Old Testament Reader:</b>	Tom Hutt	<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Mary Hammond
<b>New Testament Reader:</b>	Tom Hutt	<b>Counters:</b>	Tom Reilly & Tom Hall
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Tom Reilly		



Sunday School is available for all children during the 10:00 am worship service. Sunday School Lessons are planned to match the Lectionary reading for the week. A discussion about the lesson and a craft or activity will follow. The children join their families in church for the Eucharist, or if Miss Tina is singing in the choir, the children will come in during the peace. All children are welcome to attend our class, even if they are not here every week or are just visiting. Please ask a Greeter to direct you to the classroom.



**PARISH PRAYER LIST** – Please see the last page of this newsletter and pray for those in need of our prayers for strength, guidance, or healing, especially Patti, Penny, & David Edwards, Carmen Scott, Diane Geist, Lindsey, Kira, Preston, Cindy, Dave. Pray for those who have died.

**THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK** – Jennifer Erdman, Ike Hammond, Christopher Luckey, Jen Wills McClellan.


**FAMILY** – We will be praying this week for the Wilmerton family. Please remember to pray for Beth during the service on Sunday and keep her in your thoughts during the week.

***A Prayer for Families: Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we humbly pray to you to guide and govern us by the Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget you, but remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER** – Pray for The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

**DIOCESE OF DELAWARE** – Pray for All Clergy in the Episcopal Church in Delaware, Active and Retired.

## MEETINGS ....

COME JOIN OUR  
**BIBLE** BIBLE STUDY (Weekly) – Bible Study is generally scheduled every Wednesday at 10:00am in the Lounge. See the Schedule on page 5 under “Meeting.”  
 Study

## .... AND OPPORTUNITIES

### BAKERS NEEDED!



Do you LOVE to Bake? Do you have a favorite Christmas Cookie recipe? We would like to put together boxes/bags of cookies to sell to the Veterans on Pearl Harbor Day. We would like to have a good selection of cookies to put in each box – a ***Sign-up Sheet will be posted*** so we don't end up with 10 dozen Chocolate Chip Cookies?  
All cookies will need to be delivered to church by December 3rd so we can assemble the boxes. Please see Tina if you have questions.

### CALLING ALL KIDS!



It is our favorite Time of Year ..... **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT TIME!!** Rehearsal/Part Selections started on Sunday, Nov. 12th, giving us 5 weeks to practice. Miss Tina picked a really cute Pageant that we can have a lot of fun with! BUT she needs your Commitment and ATTENDANCE to make it work!

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED ONCE A MONTH!!** If you enjoy sharing coffee, a snack, and conversation with friends (old and new) after the 10:00 am service, we hope you will consider being a Host for one Sunday a month. Come early – it takes about 15 minutes to set up and 15-20 minutes to clean up. If you're



*Coffee Fellowship* interested, please contact Carol Hall or Marti LaRue or see them on Sunday! Pick a Sunday in a month that you (and a friend) would like to be Hosts for Coffee Hour!

### CIRCLE OF BLESSINGS

Parishioners were introduced to the ***Circle of Blessings*** last Sunday, a project in which we all are invited and encouraged to participate. There are ornaments on which we may write our reflections, telling how God has blessed our lives (it won't be necessary to sign your name). It is our vision that this ***Circle*** will be kept up for the rest of the year, perhaps longer – we always have blessings, not just at Thanksgiving. Thank you especially to John Grim for his woodworking skills! Sponsored by the Hospitality Team.

## OPPORTUNITIES (Continued)

### **PLUCK THE TURKEY**

We were recently introduced to “*Norm the Turkey*”! Because we need to replenish our supplies in the Kitchen, each “feather” (leaf) on “*Norm*” has an item that the kitchen needs. Pluck as many feathers as you would like and then start bringing in your “donations”! Drop them in the container in the lobby!

### **MARGIE’S TREE**

We will be honoring The Rev. Margie Pumphrey again this year by decorating the Christmas tree with socks, hats, mittens/gloves for local children. ***The tree is up and ready for you to fill it up!*** Thank you to Betty & Butch VanHekle who will be spearheading this project.

### **FAMILY CHRISTMAS DONATIONS**

We are collecting food for families at Richey School. The list of food items that are needed are as follows: Juice, Juice Boxes, Gatorade (small bottles), Cereal, Soup, Crackers, Canned Fruit, Pasta, Sauce, Tuna Fish, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Spaghetti’s, Chef Boyardee Cups, Canned Vegetables, Cookies, Candy.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**



***Now’s the time to place your order for RED POINSETTIAS*** to be placed on the Altar at Christmas In Memory Of or In Thanksgiving For Loved Ones. There will be a form in the Sundays’ Bulletins from November 26 through December 10. The cost of each Poinsettia is \$10.00. You may pick up your poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Eve service on December 24. (**Deadline** to place and pay for your order is Sunday, **December 10th.**)

### **DINNER & FELLOWSHIP**



Our **Christmas Mingle and Jingle** will be held at **Tony’s Bistro** on Thursday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. Join us to celebrate the season with a little festive fun! **Each person should bring one wrapped gift priced under \$10.00 so we can do a Gift Exchange!** (Gift can be nice, or funny, or creative!)

There is a menu from **Tony’s** on the easel in the lobby for your reference. (**Note:** Each person will be responsible for their own dinner.)

**If you will need a ride to Tony’s**, carpooling can be available by meeting at St. James at 5:15 pm.

**Please RSVP to Carol Hall by Sunday, December 10th** if you plan to attend, need a ride, or have any questions. Carol’s email is [teegunner@aol.com](mailto:teegunner@aol.com) OR you may sign up on the easel in the lobby.

## **MEETING**

### **BIBLE STUDY**

**September 13th – December 27th, 2023**

As Christian people we set ourselves on a lifelong course of increasingly learning about our God and God's purpose for our lives. We know many of the stories and we know about God's plan of salvation. Truly, this is a life-long task.

As we "read, mark and inwardly digest" the words of scripture, we know that God continues to speak to us each and every day. Because God continues to reveal God's self, we turn our hearts to be open and respectful to what God is saying. Throughout history, Christians have engaged in the practice of reading and studying scripture. Beginning on Wednesday, September 13th, you are invited to join in a study of scripture with others seeking to know God. Each Wednesday we will gather at 10:00am in the Lounge to consider the words of the Gospel for the coming Sunday. While we will be meeting in person, if you would like to join us by Zoom, please let the office know.

I hope that you will join us.

Sarah

### **WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – 2023 SCHEDULE**

~~September 13 – Earth Sunday – John 1: 1-14~~  
~~September 20 – Sky Sunday – Mark 15:33-39~~  
~~September 27 – Mountain Sunday – Mark 16: 14-18~~

~~October 4 – Humanity Sunday – Mark 10: 41-45~~  
~~October 11 – Saint Francis – Matthew 11:25-30~~  
~~October 18 – Matthew 22:15-22 (cancelled)~~  
~~October 25 – Matthew 22:34-46 (cancelled)~~

~~November 1 – All Saints – Matthew 5: 1-12~~  
~~November 8 – Matthew 25: 1-13~~  
~~November 15 – Matthew 25: 14-30~~  
~~November 22 – **No class**~~  
~~November 29 – Mark:13:24-37~~

December 6 – Mark 1:1-8  
December 13 – John 1: 6-8, 19-28  
December 20 – **No class**  
December 27 – **No class**

*Then on to 2024!*

## **FUNDRAISER EVENT**



**WILLIAMS SYNDROME ASSOCIATION:** Check out the *Bender Twins' Team fundraising page!* Click on the link below for more information and to donate to this wonderful Association on behalf of Samantha and Autumn! (If you are unable to open the link below, copy and paste into your URL.)  
<https://events.williams-syndrome.org/team/500609>

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

<p><b><u>CHURCH EXPENSES</u></b> Remember that even when you are away, the church expenses are not. Our pledges are what keeps the church going and the air conditioning running. Your pledge to the ministry of the parish is much appreciated! Thank you!</p>	<p><b><u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u></b> If you would like to place flowers on the altar in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one, flower forms are available on the table in the church foyer, or you may contact the church office. The cost for flowers is \$30.00. Checks should be made payable to: <u>St. James Church</u>. Please write "Altar Flowers" on the memo line of your check. The check can be placed in the Offering plate or dropped off at the office.</p>	<p><b><u>CORAL SPRINGS NURSING HOME</u></b> On the First Sunday of the month during our worship service, Rev. Sarah will consecrate the Host that will be distributed to the residents of Coral Springs Nursing Home on every other Monday each month.</p>
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**MEMORIAL GARDEN BRICKS**  
Simply seeing the name of another evokes all sorts of memories, experiences, even emotions. Our Memorial Garden and the brick walkway lovingly planned and laid out by Tom Reilly and Kenny Stafford is a pleasant, peaceful place. It is a place for reflection, gratitude, and celebration. If you would like to honor someone or some occasion, or if you would like to pay tribute to someone who has finished this earthly race, you can purchase a brick, which will be laid in the Garden. There is a card on the table in the Narthex (foyer). If you'd like to purchase a brick, simply fill out the necessary information and give the card to the Greeter or place it in the offering plate. The cost is One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per brick.

## **CALENDAR – NOVEMBER**


### **Sunday, November 26**

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service (with choir) – 10:00 a.m.

### **Wednesday, November 29**

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. in Lounge

<b><u>NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS</u></b>				
	1	– Owen Geist	24	– Kristi Pham
	13	– Becky Purdy	26	– Ike Hammond
	15	– Jim Bender	26	– Jennifer Erdman
	17	– Amber Luckey	27	– Christopher Luckey
	17	– Anna Sheesley	27	– Jen Wills McClellan
	18	– Brad Pastore, Jr.		
	18	– Cavin Luckey		
	19	– Art Scotten		
	19	– Jim Biggs		
	22	– Lisa Bowe		

### ***THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK :***

***Just for today***, I will try to live through this only and not tackle all my problems at once. I can do something. I can do something for twelve hours that would appall me if I felt that I had to keep it up for a lifetime. *(Approved by World Service Conference Al-Anon Family Groups)*

## **ST. JAMES VESTRY**

**Sr. Warden:** George McDowell

**Jr. Warden:** Tina Geist

**Christian Education Chair:** Tina Geist

**Finance:** George McDowell/Tina Geist

**Outreach Chairs:** Dawn Martinez and Janice Fischbach

**Pastoral Care Chairs:** Dawn Martinez and Marti LaRue

**Property Chairs:** Tom Reilly and Andi Bender

**Hospitality/Fellowship Chairs:** Marti LaRue and Carol Hall

**Worship Chairs:** John Grim and Dawn Martinez

**Recording Secretary:** Marti LaRue

**Clerk of the Vestry:** Janice Fischbach





## **A Prayer for Ukraine**

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
Amen.

*Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby  
Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell*

## **Prayer in the Midst of Violence**

Lord, in our shock and confusion, we come before you  
in our grief and despair in the midst of hate,  
in our sense of helplessness in the face of violence,  
We lean on you.

For the families of those who have been killed, we pray.  
For the shooters – *help* us to pray, Lord.  
For the communities that have lost members, their anger, grief, fear,  
We pray.

For the churches striving to be your light in darkness  
beyond comprehension,  
We pray.

Lord of all, gather us up – your creatures, your world –  
and bring an end to the violence.  
Come, Lord Jesus.  
Amen.

*Taken from “**Prayer for mass violence**” by Grace Claus  
written for faithward*

## **Prayer for Refugees**

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness  
and brought them to the promised land.  
Guide us now so that, following your Son, we may  
walk alongside vulnerable refugee families as  
they build a new life in the county of your love and mercy. Amen.

**ST. JAMES PRAYER LIST** – Please use this Prayer List and include the following people in your daily prayers. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month. If you want to keep someone on the list, add, or remove anyone, please email ( [stjamesnew@verizon.net](mailto:stjamesnew@verizon.net) ) or call the church office ( 302-994-2029 ).

Abigail	Cullen Kate Deal	Joshua John	Mike Pierce
Alan	Frank Dean	Sister Julian	John Pumphrey & Family
Alethia	Diana and Pevan	Carolyn Karney & Family	The Pat Purdy Family
Alex	Rose DelliGatti	Juanita Kavanaugh	Reese
Allysa	Henry Diaz	Kathy	Neil Reilly
Amy	John DiOrio	Melvin Kessler	The Rev. Reuben
Andrienne	Ross Donovan	Kiara	Rodriguez
Anna	Deborah Earley	Ritchie Kinlaw	Aaron Richers
Anne	Vern Earley	Kira	The Roche Family
Christina Azwol	Patti Edwards & Family	Sara Kirk	The Family of
Tony Andres	Penny Edwards	Susan Kriznuski	Fr. Ruben Rodriguez
Sage Andrews	Carol Edwards & Family	Marti & Ron LaRue	Roy
Barbara	Ellie Rose	Laura	Emily Ruggieri
Scott Battaglia	Eli	John Lewis	Henry Saffer
Seth Bayless	Eric	Liam	Sally
Jim Bender	Janice Fischbach	Lilly	Daniel Sanchez
Trish Bender Bayless	George Fischbach	Lois	Gabriela Santiago
Jeff Biscoe	Mary Ellen	Allen Luckey	Mike Scarpetti
Bobbie Blevins	Kira Fix	Cindy & Dave Mahoney	Scott
Eileen Borders	John & Harriet Flynn	Mallory	Carmen Scott
Barry Boulden	John	Marie Marcinkowski	Richard Scott
Paula Boulden	Joan Frati	The Martinez Family	The Francis Scott Family
Myrle Bowe	Ginny	Mary Helen	Maria Perdikis
Ronald Boyce	Diane Geist	Jude Matejkovic	Mike PierceSeth
Doris Brown	Fred Geist	Melvin	Linda Sheesley
Charles Brown	Gerike Family: Adam,	Missy	The Slocomb Family
Eleanor Buchanan	Lindsey, & Oliver	Carmen Moore	Earlene Smith
Crystal Bush	Glenn	Shirley Moore	Dan Sommers
Douglas Bush	The Gracie Family	Ann Moses	Kenny Stafford
David Butters	Brittney Griffin	Jay Muckle	Dorothy Stephens
Fran Pearlman-Butters	Scott Gunn	Randy Murray	Steve
Cameryn	Carolyn Halfen	Sara Musselman	Gavin Stiteler
Caroleen	Ike Hammond	Natalie	Paula Szczuka
Carolyn	Lindsey Hammond	Maren Nelson	The Szotkiewicz Family:
KayMaire Castro	Amy & Rick Harra	The Rev. Sarah Nelson	Joanna, Michael,
Cathy	Major Scott M. Harra	Sue Nelson	Hannah, Charles
Wayne Chapman, Jr.	Nancy Hoffman	Nicholas	Thomas
Chris	Travis Hoffman	Noah	Lorayne Titter
Cindy	Holly	Cassandra Norsworthy	Jack Tucker
The Clapp Family	Eileen Hughes	Paula Orty	Shon Tucker
Linda Clark	Peter Huiner and Family	Mark Parton	Tyler
Clint	Kaylee Jackson	Terri Parton	Jack
Bill Cole	Jennifer	Debbie Papa	Betty Ann VanHekle
Brittany Collins	Jenna & John	Madeline Pepe & Children	Preston VanHekle III
Christina Conaway	Jeremy	Pat	Mary Wade
Presiding Bishop	Jim	The Pease Family	Nancy Walls
Michael Curry	Joan	Maria Perdikis	Valerie Warrington
Daisy	Joe		Missy Wieland
Dave			Andy & Linda Wolf

**For those serving our country:** National Guard: Terron Barnes, Brad Pastore, Christina Pastore;  
U.S. Army: Maj. Scott M. Harra. *Give grace, O Lord, to our brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer physically and emotionally, that they may be healed. Grant them trust and love that their prayers may be answered and that they may be relieved from their suffering. Amen.*

Rev. 10/20/23