



# THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

## THE LION'S PAUSE with MOLLY SHERMAN

VOLUME XCVIV  
ISSUE 4

APRIL 2023  
ISSUE

Hoping for some ideas for my Lion's Pause, I scrolled through a bunch of old St. Mark's files on my computer. There were --

Harvest Dinners  
Police Faith Academy  
Food for the Spirit  
New Britain Bees Baseball Blessing  
Confirmation  
Pancake Suppers  
Adult Forum  
Walking With Jesus  
Lenten Soup Suppers  
and so many more!

There were dozens of files on dozens of different committees, projects, and activities. St. Mark's was a real happenin' place!

Well, St. Mark's WAS a real happenin' place. It made me a little sad to see all those projects and activities and committees that don't even exist any more. On the other hand, WE exist. We are still here.

Over the past several years, I've been through a lot of sadness in my life. My mother died after fighting cancer for 10 years. Then my dad was also diagnosed with cancer, and was gone in a few short weeks. My sisters and I took over my dad's shop and ran it for two years, necessitating my absence from home and family - and St. Mark's - for a lot of that time. After we closed the shop, I was diagnosed with cancer, and had a total colostomy/ileostomy. My husband and I separated after 40 years of marriage, and I moved out of the family home in which I raised my 3 children. All of this has been extraordinarily difficult and challenging, and at times I've felt like I was barely treading water.

(continued next page)

### Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Molly Sherman*
- *Easter Greeting*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Save The Date*
- *New Britain Stop & Shop Food Pantry Fundraiser*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *Palm Sunday and Easter Schedule*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *St. Mark's Day - Wear Red! April 23*
- *April Calendar*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*

Also during that time, St. Mark's has experienced a lot of sad and difficult challenges. From a robust parish with a full time rector and two full time staff in a beautiful church building, we've muddled through part-time to temporary to supply clergy, and a single employee bravely holding the fort in rented space and a shared chapel.

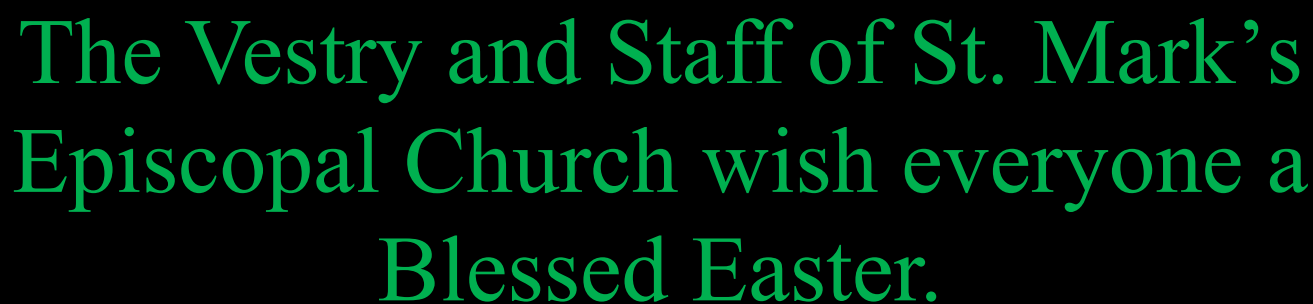
But, WE'RE STILL HERE! When I finally surfaced among the flotsam of my life, St. Mark's was like a life preserver floating there in front of me, keeping me from slipping below the surface and sinking forever.

There were friendly faces and loving arms, worship services, prayers, and coffee hour. There were visits to potentially merge-worthy parishes. There were Lenny and Stephen, plotting our course, and faithful parishioners rowing steadily and keeping us afloat. There was my place in the boat, and my oars, ready for me to pick up and start rowing.

The waves are still a challenge. Rowing is harder work than I thought it would be. There are even fewer boats out here on the briny than there used to be. (Seems like more cruise ships, maybe...)

But we're still here, we're still rowing, and Jesus is still urging us to have faith. And, even, to step out of the boat.

Molly E. Sherman



The Vestry and Staff of St. Mark's  
Episcopal Church wish everyone a  
Blessed Easter.

## ZOOM & IN-PERSON SERVICE INFORMATION

### Broadcast Instructions

Our service will always be available on Zoom with Meeting ID 500-865-037. You can enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>. Please either print or have the bulletin open on a separate browser tab to participate fully in the service. (For more information on the Zoom service, please go to the back page of the bulletin.)

If there is a significant negative change in the trajectory of the Covid-19 pandemic, we will switch to Zoom-only worship. An email will be sent out to the parish to alert everyone if the service is to be Zoom only.

In-person services at 90 Main Street **will no longer require** that everyone wear a mask and maintain a safe distance inside the buildings of South Church. Please use your best judgement concerning mask use if you have been exposed to someone who tested positive. Masks will be available for those who need them. Thank you.

Please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office if you have any questions.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, April 2 - Palm Sunday - 10:00 a.m.** Service in the Erwin Chapel.  
We will begin with the Blessing of the Palms in Cooper Hall.

**Sunday, April 9 - Easter Sunday - 10:00 a.m. - Service in the Erwin Chapel with the Rt. Reverend Laura Ahrens**

Tuesday, April 11 - 6:45 p.m. - Vestry Meeting

**Sunday, April 16 - 10:00 a.m.** - Service in the Erwin Chapel

**Sunday, April 23 - 10:00 a.m. - St. Mark's Day** - Service in the Erwin Chapel

**Sunday, April 30 - 10:00 a.m.** - Service in the Erwin Chapel with the Reverend Joan Phelps

**TO HELP OUR FOOD PANTRY YOU MAY PURCHASE A BAG AT  
THE NEW BRITAIN STOP & SHOP**



**Drop by drop  
makes an ocean.**

**Dollar by dollar  
makes a  
difference.**

For all of April, every  
purchase of this \$2.50  
Community Bag at our  
designated Stop & Shop  
sends us \$1.

**Every dollar counts!**

**STOP&SHOP** COMMUNITY BAG PROGRAM | [STOPANDSHOP.2GIVELOCAL.COM](http://STOPANDSHOP.2GIVELOCAL.COM)

## **Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner April 2023**

I have a short report of news this month, but it is *impactful*.

April brings spring blossoms as nature awakens and life is renewed.

We celebrate Easter. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

After the merger discussion at our Annual Meeting, your vestry has voted to approve pursuing a merger with St. James, Farmington. Bishop Laura has been notified of our decision and will follow up with Father Roberts at St. James to set up a joint meeting of our vestries. The process has begun!

Senior warden, Stephen Hard has received a legal opinion from an experienced attorney that if St. Mark's merges with another church, it will still be able to receive bequests from the Smith Fund as long as it continues to meet the bequest requirements (providing aid to the needy in New Britain).

We are finding answers to some important questions. God's light is guiding us. Our faith allows us to keep searching and helping others.

***"Open to God's Love, Serving Our Neighbor"***

May the Holy Spirit continue to support and guide us in God's way, in God's time.

Peace,  
Allison



### **Sunday, April 2**

10 a.m. Gathering in Cooper Hall for a joint service of the Blessing of the Palms with the congregations of 90 Main, followed by the neighborhood procession of the palms.

Following the Procession: St. Mark's will gather in Cooper Hall for our Antecommunion Service including the communal proclamation of the Passion.

No Coffee Hour following the service as we prayerfully enter into Holy Week

## **HOLY WEEK**

We will not have Maundy Thursday or Good Friday Service. Please feel free to attend these services at another area church.



### **Sunday, April 9**

Easter Sunday - 10:00 a.m. Festive Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection with Bishop Laura Ahrens. A Festive Potluck Easter Brunch will follow the service. Bring your favorite dish to share.



## Contemporary Collects and Prayers

**April 2 - Palm Sunday** - Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**April 9 - Easter Day** - O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**April 16** - Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**April 23 - St. Mark's Day** - Almighty God, who by the hand of Mark the evangelist have given to your Church the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God: We thank you for this witness, and pray that we may be firmly grounded in its truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

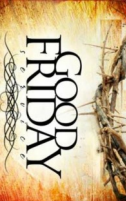
**April 30** O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**ST. MARK'S DAY -**

**Sunday, April 23rd!**

**WEAR RED!**

# APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>**Wear Red on April 23rd for St. Mark's Day</b>						
<b>2</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Cooper Hall <b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>4</b> 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg	<b>5</b> 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg	<b>6</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	<b>7</b> <b>Good Friday</b> 	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel <b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>11</b> 6:45 p.m. Vestry Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	<b>17</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel <b>**St. Mark's Day</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel						

**St. Mark's Episcopal  
Church, New Britain**

**PO Box 1538  
90 Main Street  
New Britain, CT 06051**

**Phone: 860-225-7634  
Email: [parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org)  
Website: [www.stmarksnewbritain.org](http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org)**

**PRAYER CHAIN: to activate the chain call  
Barbara Campbell 860-673-7607,  
[Campbellba24@gmail.com](mailto:Campbellba24@gmail.com)**

**If you or someone you know is hospitalized,  
please inform the parish office.**

*LABEL*

***Open to God's Love -  
Serving Our Neighbor***

**Due date for all articles for the May  
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is April 19th.**

**Regular Parish Office Hours.**

Monday through Friday  
from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Food Pantry**

Monday: 9 - 12 & 12:30 - 2:00  
Thursday: 9 - 12 & 12:30 - 2:00  
(Closed for lunch from 12 - 12:30)

**Weekly Parish Services:**

**Sundays: In-Person and Zoom - 10:00 a.m. -  
Erwin Chapel at 90 Main St.**

**St. Mark's Food Pantry**

**Monthly Statistics: February 2023**

Unduplicated households - 321

Total Unduplicated people - 748

Total food donated to St. Mark's - 640lbs.

Total food from Food Share - 3,272 lbs.

Year to date food donations - 1,240 lbs.

Year to date from Food Share - 7,457 lbs.



**We are currently receiving 2 deliveries a month from Food Share. The deliveries are  
in the morning.**

**If you can help us bring a delivery in, please call Cheryl in the parish office and she will let  
you know when to be here for the delivery. Thank you!**