



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

VOLUME XCIX
ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2024
ISSUE

THE LION'S PAUSE A WINTER PAYER - Rachel Nevergall

OUR FATHER, OUR MOTHER, OUR CREATOR.

Be near, we pray, as we move through winter, seeking the warmth of your presence and the light of grace in our darkness. Remind us of the gleeful sled down a hill, the magic in a snow angel, the comfort in a mug of hot chocolate, and the rhythm in finding joy in each season, even one as dark and cold as winter.

OH GOD OF THE HIBERNATING ANIMALS...

we pray for the church, its members and its mission. Let us huddle together this morning, our community of shelter, a place of warmth in our lives as we share the flame of hope and connection. We extend our thoughts to all those who are cold this morning, lacking shelter or love to keep them warm. Let us wrap our prayers around them and each other like scarves, and hope for protection in the storm.

OH GOD OF THE GENTLY FALLING SNOW...

as each snowflake was created by you in its own unique shape, help us to remember our own gifts of diversity. May we celebrate the magnificent creation inside each of us. Help us to use our skills, our knowledge, our positions in society, and our strength in Christ, as a community of faith, to support our neighbors. Just as the individual snowflakes pile up in great quantities outside our door, remind us of the power in working together for justice.

OH GOD OF THE FROZEN LAKES...

we pray for our leaders. Like the miracle of science that allows water to hold weight in winter, give our leaders the strength to hold the weight of decision making for our communities big and small. May their guidance not cause us to falter and fall but move with freedom and gracefulness. We especially want to pray for the educators in our communities, who after years of challenging burdens in the school community feel the anxious burden of unsteady cracks in their surface. Heal them, restore them, be strong where they are weak, and show us how we can do the same.

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - A Winter Prayer*
- *Sunday Services at St. James, Farmington*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *Storm Closing Information*
- *2024 Chili Cookoff at St. James*
- *Lentmadness 2024*
- *Worship Schedule for February 2024*
- *Save The Date*
- *Annual Parish Meeting Notice*
- *February 2024*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*

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OH GOD OF THE BARE TREES...

we pray for the sick and suffering. It is easy to forget about the springs of life when we feel as lifeless and cold as the deciduous trees outside our window. Be the strong bark of protection around those who ache with pain of body, mind, and soul. Remind them they are firmly rooted in your love, and this will bring them the nourishment they need. Give them rest in their hibernation and restoration for the spring that will come soon.

OH GOD OF THE EVERGREEN TREES...

we pray for the departed. Be with those mourning the loss of a loved one that they may find peace in remembering their life and acceptance in letting go. Like the tree masterfully designed in your image to be forever green and alive, remind us of your ever steady presence in the darkest of days. As the branches of an evergreen bends with the weight of snow, teach us to be held by your strength. May the eternal life of the evergreen remind us of your great promise of everlasting life in you.

Sunday Services at St. James, Farmington

There are two services. Rite 1 is celebrated at 8:00 am, Rite 2 (normally with choir) is celebrated at 10:15 am. This is livestreamed via FACEBOOK LIVE. Livestream connection is by clicking the "F" icon at the top of the St. James Webpage. Only the 10:15 am service is livestreamed.

A parking tip: When approaching the church turn right just in front of the entrance. Parking to the left (behind the church) is difficult and limited. Across the street from the front door of the church there is ample parking available on Sunday mornings.

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.

Contemporary Collects and Prayers

February 4 - Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

February 11 - O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

February 14 - Ash Wednesday - Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

February 18 - First Sunday in Lent - Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

February 25 - Second Sunday in Lent - O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Storm Closings



We will follow South Church lead concerning closures for the weather.
South Church will make it's decision by 6 a.m.
If South Church is closed, we will have a Zoom only service.

We will post on WFSB3 (CBS 3) and WVIT30 (NBC 30) that we are going to a
Remote Only service.

We will also send out an email and post it on our Facebook page.

2024 CHILI COOKOFF!

St. James, Farmington - Tuesday, February 13th

Beginning at 5:30 p.m. There will be a variety of chilis for the enjoyment of our parishioners and guests. If you would like to make chili OR bring cornbread, sour cream, cheddar cheese, Fritos chips, a desert to complement the chili OR if you just want to come eat and enjoy all this great food, please signup online at <https://bit.ly/StJamesChili24> or contact the office at 860-677-1564.

Our special “judges” will make the rounds of the chili offerings and pick a winner in a variety of categories, all in good fun.

Around 6:30 p.m. we will hold a brief service called Farewell to Alleluias, which is great for all, but especially our children, to usher in the season of Lent.

Also, we will burn last year’s old palms to create ashes for Ash Wednesday, so please bring your leftover palms, if you saved them!



Want a different Lenten discipline? Try Lentmadness. You know the brackets of March Madness and the basketball teams.

This is choosing brackets of saints striving for a Golden Halo. How to play?

Go to Lentmadness 2024. <http://www.lentmadness.org/>

Subscribe to the blog. Click on Bracket 2024 to get the names of saints pitted against each other. Everyday there will be a new matchup.

Read the bios on the saints and vote for your favorite.

Lent Madness begins on Thursday, February 15, 2024

February 2024 Worship Schedule for St. Mark's

Below is a listing of our Sunday worship schedule for January 2024.
Please note that this list may be subject to change at any time.
Any changes will be noted in our weekly bulletin and on our website:
www.stmarksnewbritain.org.

Date	Time	Place	Celebrant
February 4		10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel The Rev. Carol Gadsden
February 11		10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel The Rev. Dr. Gary Sturni
February 14	Ash Wednesday	12 Noon and 7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday services at St. James, Farmington. The 7 p.m. service will be live streamed on Facebook Live
February 18		10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel The Rev. Joseph Pace
February 25		8 & 10:15 a.m.	St. James, Farmington

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, February 4	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Service - Erwin Chapel and St. Mark's Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 11	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Service - Erwin Chapel
Tuesday, February 13	5:30 p.m.	St. James Chili Cookoff (See Notice on page 4)
Wednesday, February 14	12 Noon and 7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday services at St. James, Farmington. The 7 p.m. service will be live streamed on Facebook Live
Sunday, February 18	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel The Rev. Joseph Pace
Monday, February 19		Parish Office Closed - Presidents Day
Sunday, February 25	8 & 10:15 a.m.	St. James, Farmington

There will not be a Vestry Meeting in February.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

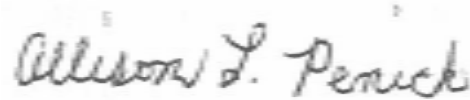
St. Mark's Annual Parish Meeting
will be held on:

Sunday, February 4, 2024

[Blizzard date: February 11, 2024]

**Location: Cooper Hall Following the 10 a.m. Service in
Erwin Chapel - **Zoom will be available.**


The annual meeting is called for Election of
Officers and Vestry and any other business as
designated by the Vestry.



Allison L. Penick
Parish Clerk

**We will have the Zoom room used for our Sunday worship service open to allow remote participation at the Annual Meeting. This works out OK for those who might just want to listen. It's not very good for those who might want to offer input. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting in person if you are able, especially as we move forward with our plans to merge with St. James in Farmington.

FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*There will not be a Vestry Meeting in February				1 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	2	3
4 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel Followed by the Annual Meeting	5 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	6	7 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg	8 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	9	10
11 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	12 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	13	14	15 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	16	17
18 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	19  Office Closed	20	21	22 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	23	24
25 St. James, Farmington	26 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	27	28	29 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night		

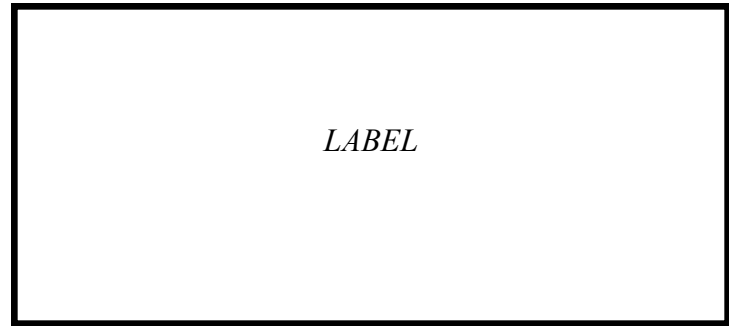
**St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, New Britain**

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

**Phone: 860-225-7634
Email: parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org
Website: www.stmarksnewbritain.org**

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

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



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

**Due date for all articles for the February 2024
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is January 24th.**

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. unless otherwise stated.
Please check the St. Mark's Calendar for our monthly schedule.**

St. Mark's Food Pantry

! Monthly Statistics: December 2023
! Unduplicated households - 185
! Total Unduplicated people - 534
!
! Total food donated to St. Mark's - 1,665 lbs.
! Total food from Food Share - 1,399 lbs.
! Year to date food donations - 10,184 lbs.
! Year to date from Food Share - 37,876 lbs.

Connecticut residents may
receive food from our Food
Pantry once every 30 days.
Please bring your own bag,
if possible, to receive food.