



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

VOLUME XCIX
ISSUE 4

APRIL 2024
ISSUE

THE LION'S PAUSE STEPHEN HARD, SENIOR WARDEN

Dear St. Mark's Faithful,

The Lord is risen. The Lord is risen indeed!

Lent is a holy time for reflection and resolution. Whatever happens, we are in the hands of the Lord. I can think of no more appropriate time in the life of the Church for us to be considering weighty matters regarding our future as a parish than within the context of Our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection.

A great deal has happened in the last few months and especially within the last few weeks. The Committees representing both St. James and St. Mark's have been extremely active and it all came together at a meeting of the joint Vestries. This was designed to be both business and social. It took 90 minutes to get to the social part. In those 90 minutes many important things about our merger process were decided. Father George did a wonderful job leading those gathered. I am especially pleased that our Treasurer, Barbara Campbell, who as you all know, has been struggling with health issues, was able to be present.

So, what's in a name? Apparently, a great deal! Both Vestries decided that both parishes will individually vote on the name for the new parish at Special Parish Meetings on April 14. If there is a discrepancy, the Vestries will meet to resolve this. This will be done in advance of yet another Special Parish Meeting on the question of the merger itself

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Stephen Hard, Senior Warden*
- *Sunday Services at St. James, Farmington*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *The Music Series at South Church*
- *Special Parish Meetings*
- *Information for Special Parish Meetings*
- *Save The Date*
- *Worship Schedule for April 2024*
- *April 2024 Calendar*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*

which will happen for both parishes on May 5. The naming meeting may involve some discussion so folks can be as comfortable as possible with what is decided. The merger meeting should be pretty straightforward, although we hope folks will bring any questions or concerns to this meeting. It is, in general, impossible for everyone to be happy with any decision. Our goal is that most people will be happy with the outcome, and everyone will feel their voice was heard even if the outcome was not what they hoped.

Sincerely in our crucified and risen Jesus,

Stephen Hard
Senior Warden

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

- April 7** - 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 14** - O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*
- April 21** - 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.*
- April 25 - St. Mark's Day** - Almighty God, by the hand of Mark the evangelist you 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. *Amen.*
- April 28** - Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Music Series at South Church

Presents:

Elm City Girl's Choir

New England's most acclaimed girls' choral program.

April 14, 2024

4:00 p.m.

South Church Sanctuary
90 Main St., New Britain

SPECIAL PARISH MEETINGS

Sunday, April 14, 2024

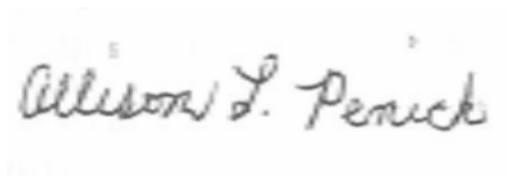
Location: Cooper Hall Following the 10a.m. Service in
Erwin Chapel (Zoom will be available.)

This meeting is called to select a name for
our newly merged church.

Sunday, May 5, 2024

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

This meeting is called for our official vote to approve the
merger of St. Mark's and St. James Episcopal Churches



Allison L. Penick
Parish Clerk

For Special Parish Meeting on April 14

This Special Meeting will be to vote on our recommended name for the new merged parish. St. James will also be voting on this date. If there is a discrepancy between what we vote and what St. James' votes, the Vestries will meet to resolve the discrepancy. The following is background information:

Options:

1. St. James and St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Farmington
2. St. James Parish, Farmington
3. St. James Parish (doing business as: St. James Episcopal Church, Farmington, with St. Mark's Ministries, New Britain)

Things to consider:

- ◆ The merger will bring about a new parish and not be an acquisition or absorption of one parish by another.
- ◆ This merger has both canonical (Episcopal Church in Connecticut) and legal (State of Connecticut and the Federal Government) implications.
- ◆ The name of the new parish on which both parishes agree does not obligate the new parish to use that exact name in our signage, outreach, marketing, and publicity. St. James Parish, for example, is typically known as St. James Episcopal Church.

Regarding Option #3:

- ◆ Keeping the "St. James Parish," would sidestep legal issues involved in a name change, and would also recognize that St. James is the location of the church building and facilities we will be using.
- ◆ St. Mark's would be recognized as part of the parish identity by the use of something like: "St. James Episcopal Church, Farmington, with St. Mark's Ministries, New Britain" on the Website and in parish publications.
- ◆ St. Mark's Ministries, New Britain, would be specified in the Bylaws of the new parish and funded by proceeds from the Smith Fund.

For Special Parish Meeting on May 5

Please note, this vote does not bring about the merger. That will be brought about by a vote of the Convention of the ECCT on October 26, 2024. The ECCT requires that both parishes vote in favor of the merger for the merger request to be brought before the Convention for its vote.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, April 2	5:45 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
Sunday, April 7	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel - Rev. Joseph Pace
Wednesday, April 3	3:00 p.m.	Pastors at 90 Main St. Meeting
Wednesday, April 3	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 9	6:45 p.m.	Vestry Meeting - Cooper Hall
Sunday, April 12		Special Parish Meeting - Following 10:00 a.m. service.
Sunday, April 14	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel - Rev. Joseph Pace
Sunday April 21	9:00 a.m.	Grace & St. John's, 2927 Dixwell Ave., Hamden
Sunday, April 28	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel - Rev. Michael Carroll

April 2024 Worship Schedule for St. Mark's

Below is a listing of our Sunday worship schedule for March 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
April 7	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel	Rev. Joseph Pace
April 14	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel	Rev. Joseph Pace
April 21	9:00 a.m.	Grace & St. John's, Hamden	Rev. Robert Bergner
April 28	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel	Rev. Michael Carroll

APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	2	3	4 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	5	6
7 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	8 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	9 6:45 p.m. Vestry Meeting	10	11 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	12	13
14 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel Special Parish Meeting	15 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	16	17	18 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	19	20
21 Grace & St. John's Church Hamden	22 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	23	24	25 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	26	27
28 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	29 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	30				
						

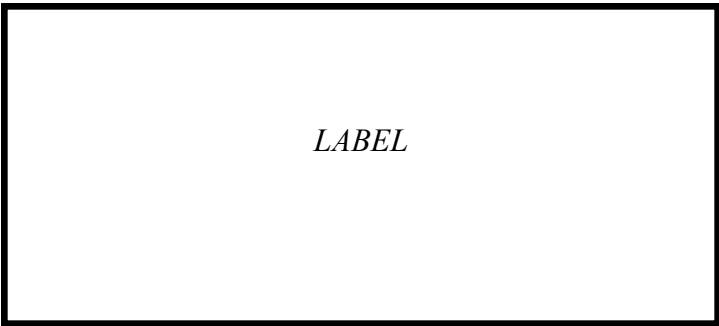
**St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, New Britain**

**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
May 2024 Issue of the St. Mark's Message is
April 17th.**

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: February 2024

- ! Unduplicated households - 249
- ! Total Unduplicated people - 743
- ! Total food donated to St. Mark's - 975 lbs.
- ! Total food from Food Share - 1,598 lbs.
- ! Year to date food donations - 1,743 lbs.
- ! Year to date from Food Share - 6,414 lbs.

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