



# THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with  
ALLISON PENICK, VESTRY CLERK

VOLUME XCVII  
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APRIL 2021  
ISSUE

## ***The Lion's Pause with Allison Penick*** **Confessions of a White Privileged Person**

Am I racist? I have always said, "I am not." I've discovered that is not the whole truth. I was born in 1960 and too young to experience the raw emotional demand for racial equality in the Civil Rights Era. I grew up in Northfield, MA, where I rarely saw blacks or any kind of diversity. While I would not intentionally mistreat any human being, I was unaware that my "white privilege" helped me escape the struggles a black person had. I did not have to worry that the color of my skin (which one can't hide) might be a strike against me when applying to a college or for a job or just walking down the street.

Now, *I* am struggling to find my way. I confess that I fear losing any security I have because of my "white privilege". I am not an activist by nature, and violence scares me. Diplomatic compromise and negotiation are my way. Sometimes peaceful protests turn into violent mobs destroying property and injuring people. Basic laws are broken. Those responsible must be held accountable. Therein lies the bigger question. We, the white privileged, have broken the most basic "law" of our Christian faith. We are all equal in God's eyes. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Jesus taught the way of love. We need to be held accountable.

### ***But how?***

This discrimination has been going on for an eternity. It has entwined itself into every part of our institutions, communities, and economy. It is so complicated. Change can't be made in a day, but silence and ignoring the problem are not an option. I have a few ideas that only touch the tip of the iceberg.

**Education**—making everyone aware of the inequities—hence the peaceful protests. I am grateful to be a member of the Episcopal Church in CT which has resolved to "Acknowledge and Confront Systemic Racism, White Supremacy, and Anti-Black Bias in Our Nation and CT." This continues the "Season of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation. I am grateful for the open discussion about The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter from the Birmingham Jail that Bishop Laura led on the fifth Sunday of Lent. I was struck by her example of an ECCT policy change for equality. Every job offering must have a black person as one of the 3 finalists. In one search,

### **Special points of interest:**

- *The Lion's Pause by Allison Penick, Vestry Clerk*
- *Holy Week and Easter Service Schedule*
- *Spring Training Information*
- *Safe Church Training Information*
- *NHSNB Service Center*
- *Food Share Distribution Sites*
- *Zoom Services and Meetings*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *A Word From Fr. Shaw*
- *April Calendar*
- *Save The Date*



they had to wait 9 months before a black person even applied! Perhaps our bias shows in the very words of a job description?

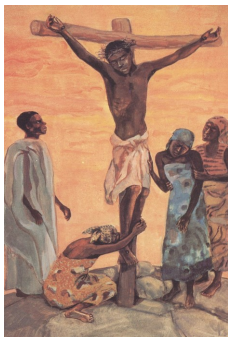
**Reparations**—I read an article reporting that on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the city council of Evanston, IL, would vote to begin distributing \$400K in grants to black residents. This would be the first instance of a U.S. city issuing reparations for decades of racist government policies. I confess that I'm mixed up about this one. I must give up a portion of my financial security for something I did not do? But, in a sense I did. And sacrifice to help those in need is part of our Christian faith.

**Getting to Know Each Other**—this is my favorite. St. Mark's is my cherished family. I have so many friends with all sorts of backgrounds. I accept them as they accept me. Yet, after years of friendship, recently I've found that I don't always know the private parts of their lives. As we talk about anti-black bias, I am learning so much about their struggles. I can come closer to understanding their pain and worries. I am grateful for their patience. I am motivated to help. (Once I figure out how!)

God Bless.

In peace,

Allison Penick



### **Holy Week and Easter Services**

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021 - Zoom Service at 7:00 p.m.

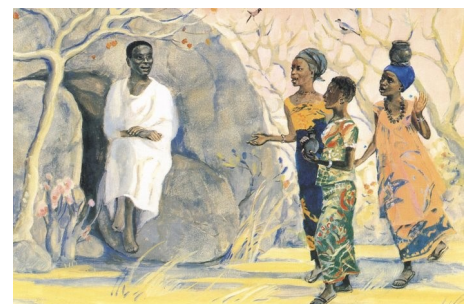
Good Friday, Friday, April 2, 2021 - Zoom Service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, Sunday, April 4, 2021 -

Zoom Service at 10:00 a.m.

Please use this Zoom ID number for all services:

500-865-037





**Go to:**

**<https://www.episcopalct.org/spring-training/>**  
**for more information or to register**

### **Safe Church Training**

If you need to re-certify or take the training for the first time, please go to:  
[www.episcopalct.org/Find-Resources/General-Parish-Operations/Safe-Church-Resources/](https://www.episcopalct.org/Find-Resources/General-Parish-Operations/Safe-Church-Resources/)

Training Dates:

Tuesday evening, April 20, 2021, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday morning, April 24, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Sunday afternoon, May 2, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday evening, May 12, 2021, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday morning, May 22, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Monday evening, June 7, 2021, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday morning, June 12, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

### **NHSNB's Free Resource Center**

223 Broad Street, New Britain

860-224-2433 X-121

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - M, T, W

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Thursday and 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Friday

Have you been financially impacted by COVID-19

At the Resource Center you will find:

- A safe and spacious environment
- Trained staff who will help you with your UniteCT application
- Computer and internet access
- Answers to your questions

Free Food Distribution at Rentschler Field - 615 Silver Lane, East Hartford

Tuesdays and Thursdays - April 1 to 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The last scheduled distribution at this location is Thursday, April 29th.

For more resources go to: [www.foodshare.org/coronavirus](http://www.foodshare.org/coronavirus)



### **ZOOM SERVICES**

**Zoom coffee hour 9:30 am; Zoom service 10 am;  
Zoom coffee hour after the service.**

**Zoom Meeting ID 500-865-037**

**or enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>.**

**There will be 1 service on Sundays: Zoom coffee hour 9:30 am; Zoom service 10 am;**

**Zoom coffee hour after the service. Zoom Meeting ID 500-865-037**

**Enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>.**



There is also a telephone number you could call on your phone to join the Zoom service: 1-646-558-8656 (phone charges may apply for the telephone call if you don't not have unlimited calling).

**If you would like the bulletin mailed to you for this service,  
please let Cheryl in the parish office know.**

Please remember to turn your phone volume down slightly – this may help with the feedback sound. Please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office if you have any questions.

## Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner

### March 2021

Happy Spring! Happy Easter!

Can it be a year since we were visiting nearby Episcopal Churches and contemplating a merger as the future of our beloved St. Mark's Parish?! Then the world turned upside down and *shutdown*. We have survived that year with sad losses, but the dark tunnel is widening and sunshine is dispersing the gloom.

In the News:

- ◆ Governor Lamont is easing CoVid restriction with the intent of maintaining safety while allowing larger groups to gather (church, restaurants entertainment) and boosting the economy. Our bishops are being more cautious with an emphasis on safety and caring for our vulnerable population. St. Mark's is following that lead. We will continue with Zoom meetings and worship services. As the weather improves and vaccinations multiply, we look forward to in-person worship, most likely outside. (Keep those masks and hand-sanitizer bottles handy!)
- ◆ Please continue to brainstorm about St. Mark's future as we re-open our doors, sell our building and decide on next steps for a clergy leader when Father Shaw fully retires next February. Are we a viable parish? How do we want to continue our mission in New Britain?
- ◆ Bishop Laura Ahrens visited us on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> as our celebrant and preacher. We were also fortunate to have the Northeast Regional Missionary Maggie Breen join us. Following the service we had a heartfelt, thought-provoking conversation about The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter from the Birmingham Jail and our ECCT resolution to acknowledge and confront systemic racism, white supremacy and anti-black bias. To paraphrase Bishop Laura's sermon, "The time has come." The time has come for Jesus to die upon the cross, be raised from the dead and glorified as our savior. The time has also come to take a stand against the inequities in our society. Silence is not an option.

God Bless you. We are traveling the path of Jesus to do God's mission and be embraced in God's infinite love this Easter season.

Allison Penick  
Parish Clerk



## A WORD FROM FR. SHAW

Dear friends,

Welcome to April! Welcome to Holy Week and especially: Easter!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Easter is back. Spring is here, and St. Mark's continues to move forward. Thank you, for your part in helping to keep the Gospel message and ministry through St. Mark's, moving forward.

Easter is the central liturgical focal point for the Church year. Every Sunday in the Church year is associated in some way with Easter and the Easter message. Christians are Resurrection people.

We may be having a challenge or two, or three, or.... Yet, we are Resurrection people with a challenge or two, or three... The Resurrection lens can make all the difference, even in the midst of a challenge, or two, or three.... It does not minimize the challenge. As Resurrection people with a Resurrection vision, the Holy Spirit of God helps us through challenges, and at the same time, enables us to help those around us work through their challenges if they are interested.

Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised. And in the meantime, we are reminded because of the Resurrection, that nothing will be able to separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, even in the midst of our challenges. (cp. the Book of Common Prayer, page 507).

And a prayer: Heavenly Father, during April we ask that your Holy Spirit would inspire us how to live as Resurrection people, even in the midst of challenges, that we might inspire and help other people in the midst of their challenges, and through the inspiration from the Gospel message: that all would be done in your way, in your time, and to your glory. In Jesus Name, we pray. Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God bless you, and take care.

Fr. Shaw

# APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. Zoom Service	<b>2</b> Good Friday 7:00 p.m. Zoom Service	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	<b>5</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>6</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	<b>7</b> 5:45 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg 7:00 p.m. Finance	<b>8</b> 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	<b>12</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>13</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Vestry Dwelling in Word 6:45 p.m. Vestry Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	<b>19</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>20</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry International Earth Day	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	<b>26</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>27</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	<b>30</b>	



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

**PO Box 1538  
90 Main Street  
New Britain, CT 06051  
The Rev. Dr. Shaw Mudge,  
Priest In Charge**

**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 clergy or call 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 21, 2021**

**Parish Office Hours.**  
Monday through Friday  
from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
**Food Pantry**  
Monday: 9 - 12 & 12:30 - 2  
Thursday: 9 - 12

**Weekly Parish Services:**

**During the COVID-19 crisis, services will be  
held on Zoom (Go to page 3 or our website—  
[www.saintmarksnewbritain.org](http://www.saintmarksnewbritain.org) for  
information on joining the service.)**

**Pledges and Offerings**

**Please remember to keep sending in your  
pledges and offerings to the parish. Mail in our  
P.O. Box is picked up several times a week. Your  
pledge payments are compiled at least once a  
month and deposited.**

**The parish ministries to the community and  
worship services adapt and continue, even in  
these most challenging times.**

**Mailing address: St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
PO Box 1538 New Britain, CT 06050-1538 or to  
electronically send checks to the Church via your  
bank.**

**St. Marks keeps going in God's way, God's time,  
and to God's glory.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday Service  
Friday, April 2 - Good Friday Service  
Sunday, April 4 - Easter Sunday  
Tuesday, April 13 - Vestry Meeting**

**The Clergy and Staff  
of St. Mark's Church  
wish everyone a  
Blessed Easter Season.**