

**St. James Lutheran Church**  
111 Peter Road  
Southbury, CT 06488

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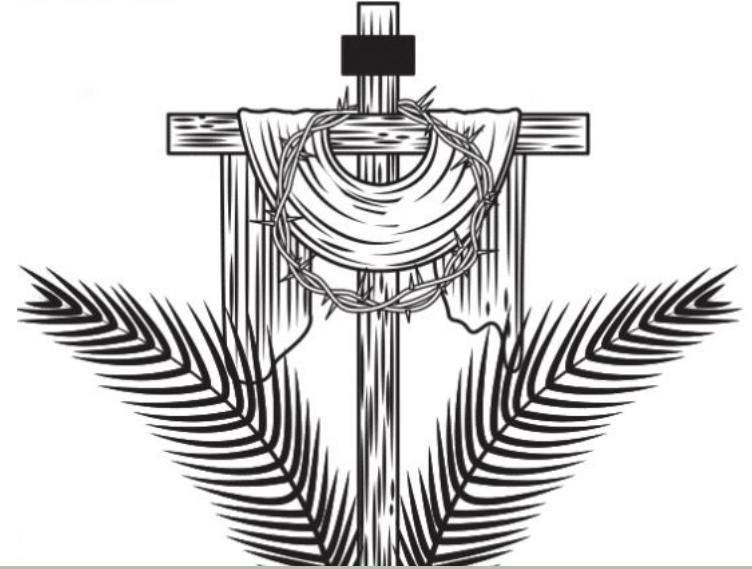
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**Return Service Requested**

March 2022

# THE EPISTLE

*"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only." James 1:22*



**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**

111 Peter Road, Southbury, CT 06488

203.264.6446

[www.stjamesct.org](http://www.stjamesct.org) [stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com)

**ST. JAMES PRESCHOOL**

Leslie Broch, Director

203.264.6448

*email: [stjameslutheranpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:stjameslutheranpreschool@gmail.com)*



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

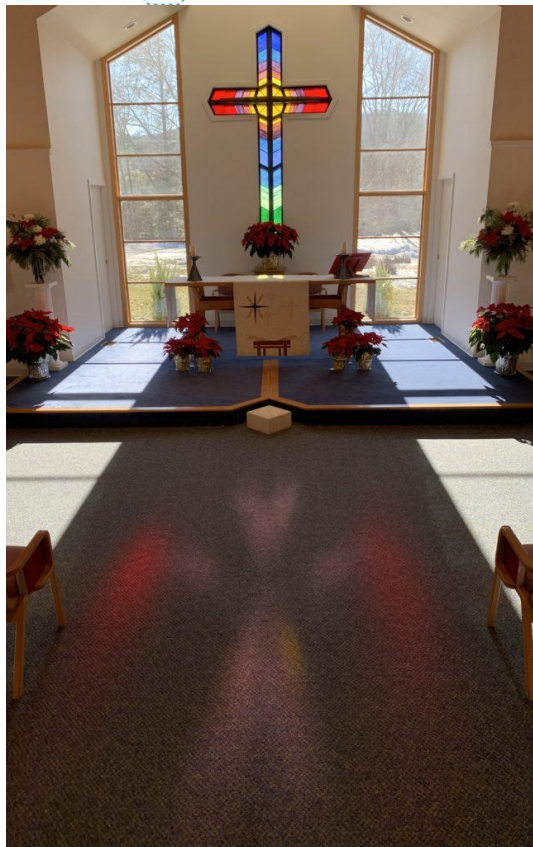
God's work. Our hands.

St. James Church is handicapped accessible and family friendly.

# SUPPORT

## Our St James Guardian Angel

Is this a Ripley's believe it or not !! Every sunny day without fail, precisely at noon, this beautiful breathtaking silhouette of an angel miraculously appears directly in front of our baptismal font. This natural phenomenon occurs when the sun's rays filter through our stained glass cross and projects this perfect image of an angel onto the carpet, similar to the function of a sun dial. So we invite you to stop by any sunny day, around noon, for a moment of meditation to witness this truly spectacular reflection of God working in mysterious ways!! I would be remiss if I didn't mention and acknowledge my best friend and long time parishioner and maintenance guru Tim Peterson for making me aware of this remarkable event. *Jacque Matthew*



## **SAFE CHURCH** (During these troublesome times)

Just to bring you all up-to-date, an Assessment of our church building, and grounds, was made, at our request, by Corporal C. Grillo (a 20-yr. member of the Southbury Police Department) a short time ago. As part of that Assessment, recommendations and suggestions were made to improve our Congregation's awareness, and make some facility changes both at church and in the preschool areas, to protect and prevent a possible intrusion. These recommendations are being put into effect and we will keep you informed and updated. We'd appreciate your input and/or questions. Please contact the Committee for Safe Church members, Jacque Matthew (203-233-9581), Lynn and Bob Morrison (203-426-7749), Judy Katzmark (203-264-4980), Paulette Calderone (203-426-7697) and Pastor Abby Johnson (203-264-6446).

## Dorothy Day House

The Dorothy Day hospitality house is asking for donations for their guests. Barbara Manville will pick up items from church on Sundays to deliver. Items include:

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Fresh fruit, Cookies, Bottled water                       | New men's workboots                 |
| Individually Wrapped Snacks                               | Men's adult ski jackets             |
| Sweatpants and sweatshirts/hoodies                        | Canned goods and pasta              |
| Men's jeans and shirts                                    | Hams -- canned or other             |
| Men's non winter jackets                                  | Individual sized toiletries         |
| Men's footwear  | Disposable razors and shaving cream |
| New men's and women's underwear                           | Washcloths                          |
| Warm adult winter gloves -- no Dollar Store gloves please | Dishwashing Liquid                  |
|   | Paper Towels and napkins            |
|   | Heavy duty potholders               |

[http://www.dorothydaydanbury.org/Wish\\_List.html](http://www.dorothydaydanbury.org/Wish_List.html)

## Rev. T. A. Gustafson Educational Aid Fund

The Rev. T. A. Gustafson Educational Aid Fund supports active confirmed members of St. James to pursue higher education. Awards are based on future promise, participation in St. James and financial need. Application forms are available from Pastor Abby or Priscilla Terhune or online <https://stjamesct.org/outreach-and-ministries/parish-life/gustafson-fund/> and must be submitted by **March 15, 2022**.

## St James Preschool



Whether it's a "lion" or a "lamb" kind of day, the preschoolers love being outside! As we wrap up winter conferences and reflect on each child's time with us in the classroom, we are always impressed with the amount of growth we witness over just several months time.





**Coming Soon!!**

AMERICARES HOMEFRONT DAY 2022 . . .

Though it may not feel like it quite yet, spring is right around the corner and so is another year of Homefront Day. IT does sound like we will planning an OUTDOOR only event tentatively scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup>. All COVID precautions will be maintained. They are currently looking for a Volunteer Coordinator, Please Contact Lou Valenti @ (203) 770-5206 if interested or Lauren Lyons, 203-982-8415 with questions.

**James Ministry/Women's Fellowship** here at St. James are collecting items for Health Kits, to be shipped to Lutheran Relief. Needed items, only, at this time are: (**no** toothbrushes or toothpaste, please): **COMBS** (small, not with "tail") **NAIL CLIPPERS, TOWELS** (small bath size - any color), **BAR SOAP**. We are hoping to collect these items within the next 4 weeks. Items may be placed in the box, marked LUTHERAN RELIEF, in the Gathering Room. Questions: Marion Allen (1-203-258-9087) or Lynn Morrison (203-426-7749) Thank you for caring, and sharing! **DEADLINE MARCH 6TH**

**Southbury Food Bank Collection**

The food bank often struggles during the cold winter months, please be sure to continue to provide donations of boxed rice so we can keep the shelf well stocked. Many thanks to the following families for signing up to help with getting our rice donations to the Southbury Food Bank (88 Main Street South, in the same complex as the Rathskeller Restaurant). There are a few open months – contact Lauren Lyons if you are able to help. You will drop the rice outside the food bank and their staff will stock the shelf. Mask required please.

Food Bank Delivery Hours: **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of month from 11:30-12:30 pm**  
Call (203)721-0377 to make other arrangements.

- February -
- March - Morrisons
- April -
- May -

**St James Budget Proposal**

At our congregational meeting last month, we went over the St James accounts for 2021 and the proposed 2022 Budget. All members can find the relevant documents in our church dropbox <https://bit.ly/StJamesFeb6> along with the meeting agenda and minutes.

Below please find a chart with our overall 2022 monthly budget

Saint James Lutheran Church 2022 Monthly Budget to Actual						
Month	Operating Income			Mortgage Income		
	Budget	Actual	Diff	Budget	Actual	Diff
Jan	16,000.00	9,824.00	(6,176.00)	2,228.33	1,673.75	(554.58)
Feb	16,000.00	2,167.00	(13,833.00)	2,228.33	643.75	(1,584.58)
Mar	16,000.00	2,167.00	(13,833.00)	2,228.33	643.75	(1,584.58)
Apr	16,000.00	2,167.00	(13,833.00)	2,228.33	643.75	(1,584.58)
May	16,000.00	2,167.00	(13,833.00)	2,228.33	643.75	(1,584.58)
Jun	16,000.00	2,167.00	(13,833.00)	2,228.33	643.75	(1,584.58)
Jul	16,000.00	2,167.00	(13,833.00)	2,228.33	643.75	(1,584.58)
Aug	16,000.00	2,167.00	(13,833.00)	2,228.33	643.75	(1,584.58)
Sep	16,000.00	2,167.00	(13,833.00)	2,228.33	643.75	(1,584.58)
Oct	16,000.00	2,167.00	(13,833.00)	2,228.33	643.75	(1,584.58)
Nov	16,000.00	2,167.00	(13,833.00)	2,228.33	643.75	(1,584.58)
Dec	16,000.00	2,167.00	(13,833.00)	2,228.33	643.75	(1,584.58)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 192,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 33,661.00</b>		<b>\$ 26,740.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,755.00</b>	

**What is OnRealm?**

OnRealm is the Church's online giving platform. Members are able to set up automatic contributions, check their latest giving, update their address and household information and more. Links to give online can be found on our website. In the upcoming months, we will also be using realm to send out group updates, keep track of parish records such as baptisms, and more! Contact Curt Haedke for more information.

**Abigail Johnson, Pastor**

**[pastor@stjamesct.org](mailto:pastor@stjamesct.org) 413-455-6940 (9AM-6PM or emergencies)**

*Throughout the week, I am often called into community engagements, committee meetings, education groups, worship preparation, administrative duties, and pastoral visits. Ensuring intentional space to welcome and be present with you, these are times I'm guaranteed to be in the office ready to receive walk-in visitors.*

**Monday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Wednesday 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

*I'm happy to schedule time with you outside these office hours to suit your availability.*

*Pastor observes Sabbath on Friday and Saturday.*

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

<b>Linda Bedard</b>	<i>Council Vice-President</i>
<b>Emilie Ulc</b>	<i>Younger Person Representative</i>
<b>Karen Furr</b>	<i>Council Member</i>
<b>Jan Carnaroli</b>	<i>Council Member</i>
<b>Judy Katzmark</b>	<i>Council President</i>
<b>Karen Lampiasi</b>	<i>Council Member</i>
<b>Neil Johnson</b>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<b>Jacque Matthew</b>	<i>Council Member</i>
<b>Lynn Morrison</b>	<i>Council Member</i>
<b>Jeff Nadasen</b>	<i>Council Secretary/Council Member</i>
<b>Kathy Haddy</b>	<i>Council Member</i>

**CHURCH ADMINISTRATION**

<b>Genie Bisch</b>	<b><i>Parish Sec., Preschool Adm. Asst.</i></b>	<b>203.264.6446</b>
	<b><i>T,Th 9-12pm; Fri. 2:30-5pm</i></b>	
<b>Leslie Broch</b>	<b><i>Director, St.James Preschool</i></b>	<b>203.264.6448</b>
<b>Diane Peterson</b>	<b><i>Organist</i></b>	
<b>Tammy Faulkner</b>	<b><i>Coordinator, Youth &amp; Family Ministries</i></b>	
<b>Gail Fay</b>	<b><i>Assistant Treasurer</i></b>	<b>\$\$</b>
<b>Curt Haedke</b>	<b><i>Financial Secretary</i></b>	<b>\$\$</b>

The due date for the April 2022 Epistle is March 15th.

Please send submissions via the form on our epistle page ([stjamesct.org/epistles](http://stjamesct.org/epistles))

Thank you



# Apple A Day:

## March, Why Omicron Probably Is Not the End of Covid-19

Many people in and out of the medical community were hopeful that omicron being so contagious would bring about a greater degree of immunity even for the unvaccinated. Some vaccine specialists were hoping omicron would provide herd immunity. The World Health Organization has promoted the idea that Omicron would promote widespread immunity through the combination of people with vaccinations and infections.

A University of California study published January 26<sup>th</sup> purports herd immunity brought about by Omicron is a “long shot”. Fully vaccinated people after break through infections of Omicron versus Delta variant; Omicron produced lower levels of immunity even though it is more transmissible; Delta produced stronger hybrid immunity when combining vaccination and infection. Omicron was compared to “upper respiratory” viruses like a cold virus. Their conclusion was Omicron will not produce long lasting immunity making people, especially the unvaccinated vulnerable to the next variant.

So where will the next wave come from? What will it look like? Most experts say at this point they don’t know. The Delta rose out of an unvaccinated population in India early 2021. Omicron started in an unvaccinated population in South Africa at the end of 2021. One medical expert says “Mother Nature” will continue to hurl variants at us especially when the world’s poorer nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America remain unvaccinated.

The vaccine remains the most reliable, safest source of immunity. Even if you have been infected with Covid a booster shot is recommended.



### Come Hike with Us!

St James Youth and Family ministries is continuing our monthly hikes. All are welcome to join us for fellowship and a little exercise!!! Meet at 10am.

Contact Lauren Lyons  
[lyonsden1133@yahoo.com](mailto:lyonsden1133@yahoo.com)  
 203-982-8415 if questionable weather....

**March 19 – Fairfield Hills**

### Acolytes Needed!

The lighting of the altar candles in the worship service is a symbol of Jesus coming into the presence of the worshipping community. Just as the Israelites were led through the desert by a pillar of fire, we are led by Christ, the light of the world.

We are looking for individuals who would be willing to act as acolytes starting again with the Lenten season. Adult and youth acolytes are needed, all are welcome. If you have any questions and/or are interested please contact Tammy Faulkner at [stjamesyafm@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesyafm@gmail.com) or 203-512-4471.

### Acolyte History

The word acolyte is derived from the Greek word akolouthos, meaning companion, attendant, or helper, who waits continually upon another: a follower. The Acolyte ministry has its roots in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible, where the prophet Samuel is seen assisting Eli, the Levite priest, and Elisha is seen assisting Elijah the Prophet.

Today, acolytes continue to assist the pastor through their service in lighting candles, distributing and receiving back the offering plates, collecting the individual cups during communion, and other duties as necessary. They are important participants in worship and perform vital tasks.

### Sunday School

Sunday 9:00am to 10:00am  
<https://bit.ly/SundayYAFM>

### Confirmation Class

Sunday 6:30pm to 8:00 pm  
 Biweekly @ Immanuel Church, Oxford

### Adult Bible Study

Paused for Lenten services

### Adult Forum

Sunday 9:00am to 10:00am  
<https://bit.ly/SundayAdultForum>  
*Join us as we journey through the Filled to the Brim devotional. Print copies available at church*

### Midweek Meditation Calls

Wednesday 12:30  
*A brief recorded phone call with a guided meditation by Pastor Abby*



## In Our Prayers



Frank Haddy	Janet Benzell	John Richardson
Doris Schoppmann	Stanley Ulc	Arlene Richardson
Diane Defazio	Brian Mons	Hannah Neeb
Karen Huber	Rachel Nessel	Rich Neeb
Gisella Bachel	Ethan Nessel	Steve Ulc
Peter Adler	Dottie McGinnis	Mary Dunn
Gabi Adler	James Brady	Marian Allen
Edward Soto	Rose Danieli	Andi Lyons
Marie Salvatore	Ellen DiBenedetto	Linda Martin
Marilyn Balla	Charlie Costello	Diana Larson
Gloria Trede	Conrad & Meg	Morgan R. Morris
	Isaac	Mitchell Nadasen
		Slava Alvarez



***Please also keep Tim Peterson, Ryan Benson, and all those who serve in the military, in your prayers***

***We also give thanks for All the Saints, especially Angela Decortin, Rosemary Martin, Khloe Robinson, Fred Weunsch, Vicky Gibb, Janet Behrendt, Ingo Dutzman, and Kendra Iller***

Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 9 am for Sunday School and adult forum via zoom, and at 10:15 am for worship at 111 Peter Road, Southbury, CT. In agreement with the New England Synod's Covid guidance, masks are required whenever in the building and social distancing in the sanctuary is to be upheld.

Your offering may be mailed to 111 Peter Road ( the mail is collected daily) or your donation may be made online. As you are able, please help us keep being the hands of Christ.



## A WORD from Pastor Abby

Greetings beloved community of St. James,

Two weeks ago, I walked into the halls of the Frick Art Museum in New York City. I stared into the painted faces of many people. Different decades, different dress, but all resigned to a single position, one look for their days on display. Then, I looked around at the living faces of many people walking about. As they paused at one painting and walking to the next, their faces moved and changed. You could tell when they liked some paintings, others made them uncomfortable, still others they felt indifferent – no more than a quick glance. One woman stood looking at an acrylic landscape featuring soft morning light coming up over a harbor for quite some time. While others walked past her, she stayed with a soft smile on her face.

The beauty of art is there are so many ways to shape it and to experience it; none of them wrong or bad. And while the paint may dry on a portrait or a landscape, its composition now definitive, the impression it leaves is not so limited. What brings one person peace or joy may be understood or felt differently to another. The meaning an artist held when creating their art may not be the same meaning an audience takes with them. Just as God the artist is beautifully, creatively diverse, so too are God's masterpieces.

This season of Lent, we will journey together through a period of thoughtful reflection, as if we ourselves were a museum and the pieces of our lives, art on its walls. We will be guided by the curriculum "Full to the Brim," a Lenten resource created by the group "A Sanctified Art," who are a group of painters, writers, poets, musicians and theologians.

They write, "*Full to the Brim is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. It disrupts the scarcity mentality that capitalism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.*"

You will see this theme brought into all life of the church. In our mid-week Lenten services on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on Zoom, we will use the opportunity of a digital platform to display art and incorporate it into our spiritual practice of reflection and meditation. Come artist, come masterpiece – for that is what God calls you.

*Peace & gratitude, Pastor Abby Johnson and Thule*

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

### March 6th

Lector: *Donna Peterson*

Chaplain: *Mary Ewert*

Cantor: *Ben Dressel*

Counters: *Barbara Manville, Steven Ulc, Catherine Ulc*

### March 13th

Lector: *Gary Kline*

Chaplain: *Liz Skinski*

Cantor: *Lynn Morrison*

Counters: *Gary Kline, Diane Mladjen*

### March 20th

Lector: *John Dressel*

Chaplain: *Karen Lampiasi*

Cantor: *Kaitlyn Franco*

Counters: *Jacque Matthew, Barbara Manville, Bob Morrison*

### March 27th

Lector: *Judy Katzmark*

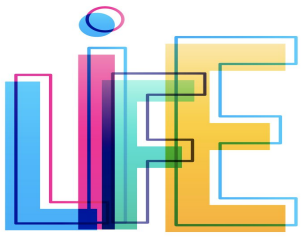
Chaplain: *Janice Salvatore*

Cantor: *Neil Johnson*

Counters: *Neil Johnson, Diane Mladjen, Catherine Ulc*







In the CAT survey, our members expressed the desire to feel more connected to one another and meaningfully involved with parish life and worship. To address these hopes and pandemic circumstances, the Parish Life Committee has instituted some new opportunities in worship and prayer life.

1. **Prayer Chaplains:** These individuals serve on Sundays to offer up our petitions to God during the worship service. Always uplifted in our hearts and prayers are the specific names offered by members, including saints who have left this earth, and active military members. The leader of the Prayer Chaplains, currently Liz Skinski, prepares the prayers weekly.
2. **Sharing Joys & Concerns:** Pastor Abby has introduced this new moment to worship, as we seek to be intentional and personal in praying for the gathered community each Sunday. This serves as another way for us to deepen connection and relationship with one another. Before the Prayers of Intercession, Pastor Abby will open a time of brief sharing for anyone to speak, where we might pause and be present with the ones around us. The prayer chaplain will not repeat these petitions; but God will hear them and we will share more deeply one another's concerns and joys. You will notice too, that the assembly will be asked to remain seated for the prayers of intercession thereafter.
3. **Prayer List Updates:** We would like the list of names we raise up as a community each Sunday to be as current as possible. Last year we asked members to review the lists and let us know whether the names you had placed on the list could be removed or continue to remain for weekly petitions. Moving forward, we will edit the lists on request and also create new lists every six months; the first Sunday of May and following All Saints Sunday, the first Sunday of November. We will give everyone ample warning to request names remain or be removed at that time.

As we continue to our worship practices, please know we welcome your feedback and suggestions. As it says in our bulletin each week, "wherever you are on your walk with or towards God, you are affirmed, belong and beloved here at St. James. Our community welcomes YOU!" May the "Prayers of the People" be our action in support of these words! All are welcome and embraced.

# Lent

Throughout the season of Lent, our theme will be "Filled to the Brim." The Sunday Gospel reading are parables filled with images and experiences of God's abundant, extravagant, undeserved grace. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path. This theme will be woven into music and spoken word, as well as Mid-week services, Sunday Adult Forum and Meditation Calls.

## WORSHIP

**Ash Wednesday Service, with Holy Communion** – Wednesday, March 2 at 7:00 PM, in person

**Lenten Sunday Services, with Holy Communion** – Sundays at 10:15 AM, in person and on radio 88.5 FM

**Mid-week Lenten Services** – Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, on Zoom (March 9, 16, 23, 30, & April 6)

With a focus on art and meditation, these beautifully crafted services are designed to be viewed and interacted with on the digital platform from wherever you are. This 5-week session provides an opportunity to try creative platforms for worship and accommodate those not yet comfortable coming to worship services in the building.

"Filled to the Brim" is a liturgical resource created by the artists' collaborative group "A Sanctified Art." *Print copies available at church*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Holy Communion is offered at all worship services in one kind only.</b>	<b>Midweek Lenten Services are held via zoom</b>	1 9-12pm Genie in Office 12pm NVC Bible Study <b>1:30pm Parish Life</b> <b>7pm Pancakes with Pastor</b>	2 1-3pm Pastor in Office <b>7pm Ash Wed Service (in person)</b> <b>7pm AA</b>	3 9-12pm Genie in Office <b>7:30pm YAFM</b>	4 2:30-5pm Genie in Office	5
6 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship <b>4pm Girl Scouts</b> <b>6:30pm Confirmation Class</b>	7 10-12pm Pastor in Office <b>7pm AA</b>	8 9-12pm Genie in Office 12pm NVC Bible Study <b>1pm James Ministries</b>	9 1-3pm Pastor in Office <b>7pm Lenten Service</b> <b>7pm AA</b>	10 9-12pm Genie in Office <b>7pm Parish Support</b>	11 2:30-5pm Genie in Office	12 <b>11:30am Rice Shelf Restock</b> <b>Forward Leadership Seminar</b>
13 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship <b>4pm Girl Scouts</b>	14 10-12pm Pastor in Office <b>7pm AA</b>	15 9-12pm Genie in Office 12pm NVC Bible  <b>Gustafson App Due</b> <b>Epistle Contributions</b>	16 1-3pm Pastor in Office <b>7pm Lenten Service</b> <b>7pm AA</b>	17 9-12pm Genie in Office <b>6:30pm Council</b>	18 2:30-5pm Genie in Office	19 <b>10am YAFM Hike (Fairfield Hills)</b>
20 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship <b>4pm Girl Scouts</b> <b>6:30pm Confirmation Class</b>	21 10-12pm Pastor in Office <b>7pm AA</b>	22 9-12pm Genie in Office 12pm NVC Bible Study	23 1-3pm Pastor in Office <b>7pm Lenten Service</b> <b>7pm AA</b>	24 9-12 Genie in Office <b>7pm Preschool Board</b> <b>7pm Forward Leadership</b>	25 2:30-5pm Genie in Office	26
27 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship <b>4pm Girl Scouts</b>	28 10-12pm Pastor in Office <b>7pm AA</b>	29 9-12pm Genie in Office 12pm NVC Bible Study	30 1-3pm Pastor in Office <b>7pm Lenten Service</b> <b>7pm AA</b>	31 9-12 Genie in Office		