

NOVEMBER 2022

ST JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH EPISTLE

A CONGREGATION
OF THE
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AMERICA

IN THIS ISSUE:

Serving in Worship
A Letter from Pastor
Faith Formation
Worship Events
Interfaith Thanksgiving
Advent Wreath Making
Fall Fest Review
Evangelism Check In
Fall Coat Drive
Mission Endowment Fund
Stewardship Campaign
In Our Prayers



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

111 Peter Road, Southbury CT 04688

www.stjamesct.org

[@stjamesctlutheran](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesctlutheran)

203.264.6446

stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com

Our building is locked at all times for security; please call ahead.

Rev. Abigail Johnson, Pastor

(she/her/hers)

pastor@stjamesct.org

203-450-6454 (call or text)

CHURCH COUNCIL

Kathy Haddy	<i>President</i>
Linda Bedard	<i>Vice President</i>
Donna Peterson	<i>Secretary</i>
Jan Carnaroli	<i>Worship</i>
Liz Skinski	<i>Faith Formation</i>
Lucia Dressel	<i>Fellowship & Comm.</i>
Diane Mladjen	<i>Preschool</i>
Lynn Morrison	<i>Outreach & Evang.</i>
Tony Salvatore	<i>Finance & Properties</i>
Emilie Ulc	<i>Youth Rep.</i>
Rev. Abigail Johnson	<i>ex-officio</i>

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Genie Bisch	<i>Parish Admin. & Preschool Admin. Assistant</i>
Abigail Manville	<i>Media & Communications</i>
Leslie Broch	<i>Director, St. James Preschool</i>
Diane Peterson	<i>Organist</i>
Curt Haedke	<i>Financial Secretary</i>
Neil Johnson	<i>Treasurer</i>
Ellen Hubina	<i>Asst. Treasurer</i>

*Please contact the office **prior** to dropping by, should you require assistance. If you desire use of the office space, please schedule time **outside** the Parish Administrator's working hours. Thank you!*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

ASSISTANT MINISTERS, LECTORS,
USHERS, CANTORS, COUNTERS,
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

November 6th

Usher: Bill Siegle

Lector: Kathy Haddy

Asst. Minister: Mary Ewert

Cantor: Liz Skinski

Counters: Barbara Manville,
Diana Larson

Sunday School: Emilie Ulc,
Meghan Colasanto

November 13th

Usher: Gary Kline

Lector: Meghan Colasanto

Asst. Minister: Karen Lampiasi

Cantor: Lucia Dressel

Counters: Neil Johnson, Diane
Mladjen

Sunday School: Lauren Lyons,
Barbara Manville

November 20th

Preaching: Rev. Steven Wilco

Usher: John Dressel

Lector: Curt Haedke

Asst. Minister: Liz Skinski

Cantor: Karen Lampiasi

Counters: Bob Morrison,
Gary Kline

Sunday School: Mike Lyons,
Jan Carnaroli

November 27th

Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Dewey S.

Usher: Jack Lampiasi

Lector: Diana Larson

Asst. Minister: Jim Mix

Cantor: Ben Dressel

Counters: Rich Larson,
Catherine Ulc

Sunday School: Bill Siegle,
Jan Salvatore

CONTACT:

Lectors: Tammy Faulkner

Counters: Curt Haedke

Cantors: Diane Peterson

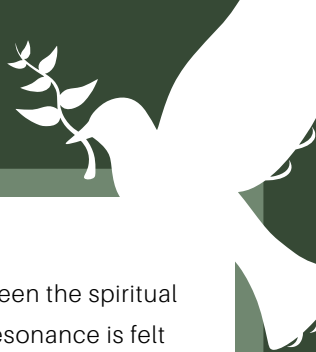
Asst. Ministers: Liz Skinski

Ushers: Jacque Matthew

Altar Guild: Lynn Morrison

Sunday School: Lauren Lyons

A WORD FROM PASTOR



Dear Beloved Community,

The ancient Celts had a name for locations where the veil between the spiritual world and physical world narrowed: thin places. Here, sacred resonance is felt much closer and deeper, just by simply entering in. Think of your own experience; where have you walked and suddenly felt, somewhere between your heart and your gut, that you just got nearer to the Holy? Maybe it gave you goosebumps, caused you to pause, or took your breath away.

While working as a hospital chaplain, I was surprised to discover hospital rooms as thin places. These sterile, stark rooms became as intimate as a family's kitchen table. Strangers overlapping briefly and yet such rich conversation about patients' lives, most important moments, relationships, decisions, and conditions. A thin place would start to come to light triangularly between us; myself as chaplain, the patient and God, or however the patient identified that feeling of "Something Greater Than Oneself." I still have profound gratitude for being invited to hold such intimate moments with people I'll never see again. How many strangers do we wait in line with and never know their stories? And yet, into these unassuming hospital rooms and a whole testimony would be offered.

If hospital rooms are thin places, then the ICU family lounge is a chapel. It is a unique space that seems to hover between worlds, where the most eager of prayers are uttered. I have spent a lot of time there, both as a chaplain and as a grieving visitor myself. It is my own theory that one of the characteristics of a thin place is where two seemingly contradictory realities can live together in a divine juxtaposition. An ugliest mess and a strange beauty. Unequivocal anger at God and a desperate dependence on God. The weakest sense of self and the strongest communal love. Grief and gratitude. A place so full and still so thin.

After clocking into the hospital, I would start each day at the ICU family lounge while it was still quiet to say a brief prayer over it. When we enter a thin place together, already possessing the Holy Spirit within us, we are made aware of the thin distance between ourselves and God... and also the thin distance between one another.

PEACE AND GRATITUDE

PASTOR ABBY JOHNSON AND THULE

COMMUNITY FIKA with PASTOR

In Swedish, "fika" refers to the cherished daily practice of a coffee break and sweets with a friend.

In place of "Walk-In Hours," Pastor Abby will now be offering "Community Fika" public drop-in hours, held at Starbucks in Southbury.

Wednesdays
1:30 - 3:30 PM

Anyone is welcome to come for a warm mug and warm chat!



MEET THULE

"too-lee"

Pastor Abby's pup

A regular at church, he is gentle, friendly and loves to greet kids & adults!



OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

"Wherever you are on your walk with or towards God, you are welcome, affirmed, beloved, and belong!"

Whether in celebration, grief, doubt, or curiosity of faith, Pastor Abby is happy to meet with you at a time and place that suits you well; contact her to schedule a visit.

*Observes Sabbath on Fridays & Saturdays.
For pastoral emergencies, please call.*

REPORTS & NEWS

WORD & SACRAMENTS

From October

Baptism of Evelyn Mae Sutherland,
Funeral for Julie Marie Johnson

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSEL

Nov. 19

Forward Leadership

Ongoing spiritual guidance and support for individuals, families, church teams, and community.

WIDER CHURCH & PUBLIC THEOLOGY

Includes the Southbury Interfaith Clergy Association, Naugatuck Valley ELCA Conference of Pastors, Naugatuck Valley Project, Interfaith Power & Light, Synod Green Team, and others.

Nov. 7-9

New England Synod Convocation for Rostered Ministers @ Southbridge, MA

Nov. 12

Panelist on eco-theology at town historical event

Nov. 22

Preaching Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

ORDINARY TIME

Now - Nov 26th

The Story of God's
People... Heart &
Mind

"Ordinary Time" is the second half of the church liturgical year. Where the first half of the church year focused on the story of God in Jesus, the second focuses on the story of God in God's People. This autumn season, we explore who we are and how God is at work in us, through our history, identities, and traditions.

Liturgical Color:
Green

Guest Voice:
Rev. Steven Wilco,
Nov. 20

Feasts:
All Saints, Nov. 6
Christ the King, Nov. 20

ADVENT

Nov 27th - Dec 24th

Come Home & Get
Ready

Advent is the season of preparing our hearts for Christ. Like Mary and Joseph, we return home. As Jesus comes to be with us, so too are we thoughtfully present with our community.

Liturgical Color:
Blue

Guest Voice:
Rev. Dewey Strohmeyer,
Nov. 27

Service of Word & Holy Communion, Sundays 10:15 AM

Worship Team

Help plan and prepare for worship!
1st Tuesday @ 2:30pm

Special Dates & Services

November 6th

All Saints Sunday

You are invited to bring a picture of your own personal saints to be on display on the remembrance table during worship. Place in the box outside the sanctuary.

November 20th

Christ the King Sunday

Guest preacher Rev. Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop's Office will also give a presentation about the New England Synod during the Stewardship Luncheon following church.

November 22nd


Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

*Held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 7PM.
Pastor Abby preaching*

November 27th

Advent

Start of Advent and new church year



Stewardship Talks by all Ministry Teams
November 6-20. Stewardship Luncheon to
follow worship on Sunday, November 20.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

NOVEMBER 27TH AFTER SERVICE

As Advent is approaching and we will be wishing a Happy New Year to our church community, let us celebrate with an afternoon of wreath making! Mark your calendars for the First Sunday in Advent, November 27th following the service. We will be serving hot beverages (cocoa, tea, coffee) and ask that you bring your favorite cookies for sharing! Please bring garden shears and gloves to cut the greens for your wreath. All supplies will be provided. If you cannot attend, we can give you a kit to make your own at home. Advent calendars will also be available for distribution. Here's to wishing a happy new year to one and all!

Please sign up in the gathering area if you would like a kit (even if you aren't sure whether you will be able to attend on November 27). This way we can estimate the amount of supplies we will need.

Contact Jan Salvatore with
questions and to volunteer



Fellowship

Meets 3rd Tuesday @ 4PM

Please sign-up for helping with COFFEE FELLOWSHIP on Sundays after Worship! This is a wonderful fellowship event! The more hands make light the work - see Bob or Lynn Morrison (203-426-7749) for more information.



Men's Fellowship Group

Meets 2nd Saturday @ 9am in Fellowship Hall

A men's group dedicated to a time of christian sharing and fellowship once a month. We've learned a lot about each other as we shared our stories of how it is, that here in 2022 we find ourselves at St James. As you might imagine, spanning 8 decades, there was plenty of variety in the stories! Our next meeting is planned for November 12th, 9am at church. We'll have an interesting discussion topic to kick around!

Ladies' Fellowship Group

Meets 2nd Tuesday @ 1pm in Fellowship Hall

As one of our oldest ministry groups, Ladies Fellowship holds twice yearly luncheons and monthly meetings to discuss internal and external ministry opportunities.





Dear Church Family,
I can't tell you how grateful I am that we had such a wonderful turnout at Fall Fest! We estimate about 300 people attended and we raised about \$3000 for outreach ministries - what a blessing to be able to use these resources to help support those who need it most. Special thanks go to Gary Klein for organizing such a beautiful bake sale and to the vendors who helped to make our event a success - God's blessings are all around us! - Barbara Manville



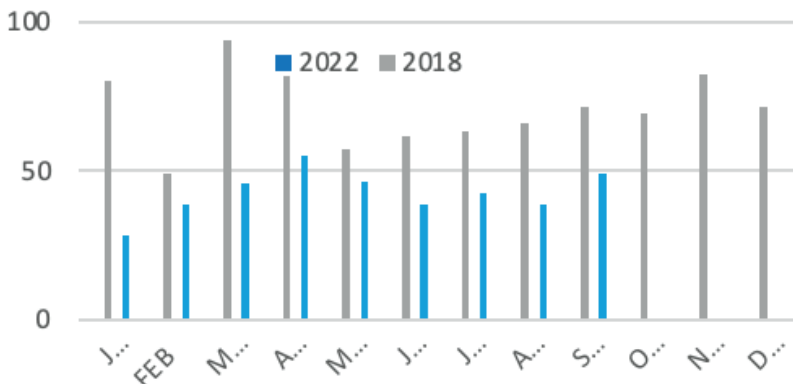
Evangelism 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 1:00pm

A newly formed Evangelism committee consisting of Lynn Morrison, Bill and Marylee Siegle and Grethe Arthur has been meeting monthly. We've discussed the need to have a more focused effort on bringing folks back to....basics, namely their faith and embracing Jesus and our community of faith.

Our worship attendance patterns, although steady in the 2010s prior to the pandemic, are in 2022 running 30-40% below those earlier levels. (see graphic) We plan to contact folks we have not seen in a while, in addition to a "Welcome Back" letter to encourage those who may still be "pandemic shy" to return to worshipping together. We've also been involved in handing out over 100 "Prayer Pockets", made by the ladies of James Ministries, to those who visited our successful Fall Fest event on October 1.

We're reminded of the joy and the power of coming together as a community of believers. Come join us as we get ready for the holiday season!

Avg Monthly attendance -- 2018, 2022





FAITH FORMATION

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM, on Zoom

Join us for casual conversation on Sunday's assigned readings and time for prayer. Come as you are!

WEDNESDAY MEDITATION

Wednesdays @ 12:30 PM, Phone

Original 2-minute guided meditations recorded by Pastor Abby; subscribe on our website homepage or listen on the podcast

ADULT FORUM

Sundays @ 9:00 AM, In-Person (Prayer Chapel)

Now through November 20, continuing with book study of "Moral Leadership for a Divided Age" by Holtz & Gushee

PODCAST: A STEADFAST BRANCH

A weekly podcast for all ages, listen for free online or on Spotify. Faith-formation offerings such as sermons, devotionals, kids chats, blessings, meditations, and interviews with the wider church community



FAITH FORMATION... **FOR KIDS!**

Exploring faith and nurturing growing relationships with God and one another.

CONFIRMATION

TBD
Grades 6-8

A deeper study in Lutheran tradition and Christian faith in affirmation of baptism.

If you're interested, see teacher Lynn Morrison to enroll.

YOUTH GROUP

NEW

3rd Sunday @ 4 PM
Grades 6-12

Local ELCA churches are partnering to provide fun youth events and shared opportunities.

Nov. 13 @ Prince of Peace Church, Brookfield
Games & Icebreakers

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays @ 10:15 AM
Fellowship Hall

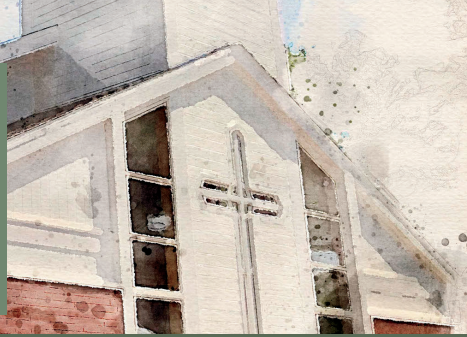


Refreshed and renewed! Sunday School for Pre-K - Grade 5 resumed on Reformation Sunday! Following the Children's Sermon, kids are invited for a lesson and activity for 20-25 minutes, before rejoining worship in time for Communion.

Interested in teaching? Teachers ages 17+ will work in pairs, once every ~2 months, with resources provided for a simple lesson, on a lectionary-based curriculum. See Ellen Hubina for a teacher information packet. See Lauren Lyons to be added to the teaching rotation. See Liz Skinski with any additional questions.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

God's work, our hands



Unicef Thanks

Many thanks for all the generous hearts of St James, friends, neighbors and families.

We are still counting and adding matching funds! We'll cheer the total in the December Epistle. Thank you!

“

And the King will say,
“I tell you the truth,
When you did it to one of the least
of these, my brothers and sisters,
You are doing it to Me.”

(Matthew 25:40)

”



**United
Nations
International
Childrens
Emergency
Fund**



Help Us Fill Up the Food Bank

Saint James is doing a great job keeping up support of the rice shelf at the Southbury Food Bank – keep up the great work!!!! The food bank serves about 100 families in the community – each family is allowed to visit twice monthly and can take a rice item at each visit.... That's a LOT of rice. There are still some months available for food bank stocking:

November - Lyons
December - Morrisons
January - Open
February - Open
March - Open



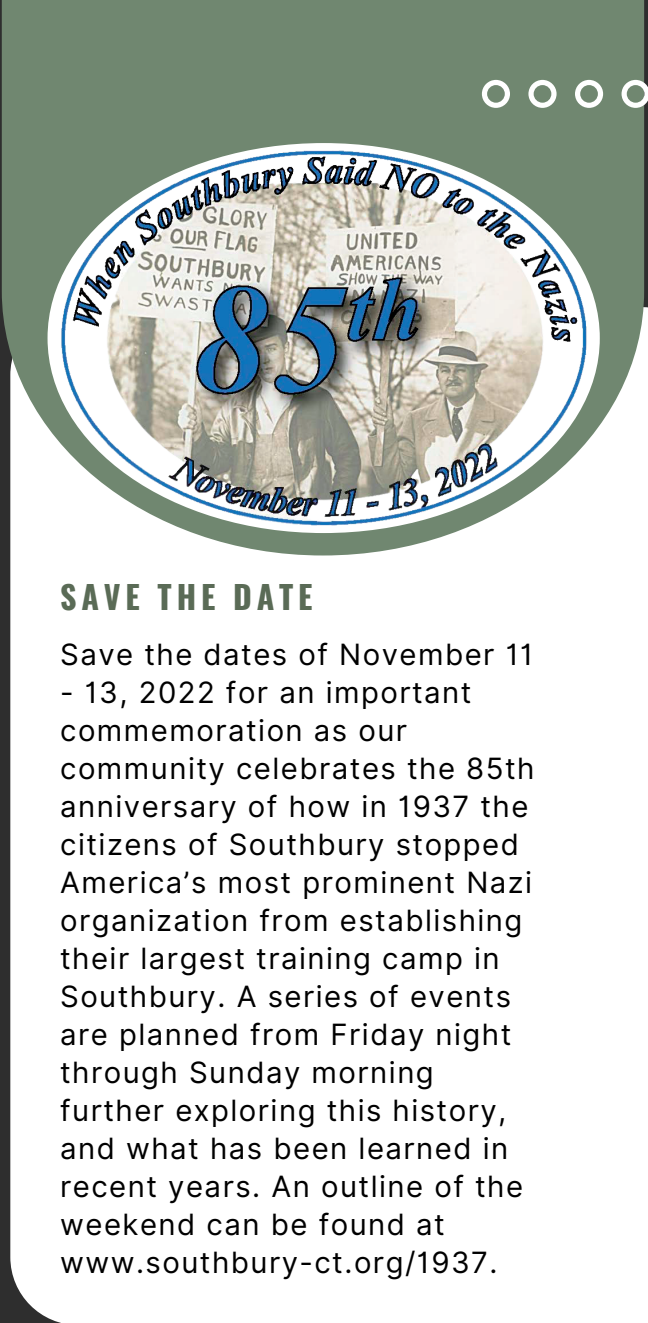
Outreach (cont)

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

The semi-annual meeting of the Mission Endowment Committee will be held in November. The St James mission endowment fund provides the congregation with money for us to contribute to charitable causes. We are always open to suggestions for how the funds should be disbursed and welcome congregational input. If you have any suggestions that you would like brought to the committee meeting please send to committee co-chairs Karen Furr, ksfurr@gmail.com or Linda Bedard, linda.bedard@sbcglobal.net prior to the November meeting.

FALL COAT DRIVE!

Blankets and coats do not mean an awful lot unless its cold and you don't have one! Saint James is planning to hold a coat drive beginning in November through December 4th. Set aside gently used coats, hats, gloves and blankets when you are doing fall clean-out to be donated to outreach programs in Waterbury or Danbury. We will be collecting items in the bin in the gathering area.



SAVE THE DATE

Save the dates of November 11 - 13, 2022 for an important commemoration as our community celebrates the 85th anniversary of how in 1937 the citizens of Southbury stopped America's most prominent Nazi organization from establishing their largest training camp in Southbury. A series of events are planned from Friday night through Sunday morning further exploring this history, and what has been learned in recent years. An outline of the weekend can be found at www.southbury-ct.org/1937.



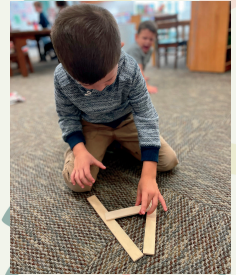
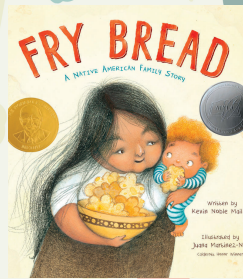


St James Preschool

203-264-6448

stjameslutheranpreschool@gmail.com

Leslie Broch, Director



The fall is flying by at the preschool. We've had so much fun with the fire fighters' visit, apple picking, Halloween Fun Day, and using apples, leaves and pumpkins to practice literacy, math and science concepts. We are grateful to be able to provide such a caring and fun learning environment.

Storytime with Pastor

On November 15 & 16, Pastor Abby will be reading **"Fry Bread"** by Noble-Mallard & Martinez-Neal, with both the 3 and 4 year old classes to celebrate Native American Heritage Month.



Parish Support

Financial Team & Property Team meets together 3rd Thursday @ 7PM

Financial Report

"Season of Gratitude" Stewardship Campaign

November 6, 13 & 20
 Temple Talks by each Ministry Team, to inform, invite, encourage support & express gratitude

November 20
 Congregational Luncheon following worship, sponsored by Council

2022 Monthly Budget to Actual As Of September 30th, 2022

Month	Operating Income		Mortgage Income	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Jan	16,000.00	10,602.00	2,228.33	1,673.75
Feb	16,000.00	11,434.00	2,228.33	1,843.75
Mar	16,000.00	11,794.00	2,228.33	2,003.75
Apr	16,000.00	16,746.00	2,228.33	3,937.75
May	16,000.00	15,626.00	2,228.33	1,978.75
June	16,000.00	12,826.00	2,228.33	1,858.75
July	16,000.00	17,732.37	2,228.33	1,668.75
August	16,000.00	19,141.00	2,228.33	2,228.75
September	16,000.00	15,356.00	2,228.33	1,838.75

Current Fund Amounts


Your offering may be mailed to 111 Peter Road and the mail is collected daily, or your donation may be made online on our website. As you are able, please continue to help us be the hands of Christ.




\$21,138.03
 Bell Tower




\$1,852.00
 Organ



\$805.00
 Organ & Music



\$1,075.00
 Flowers



\$7,151.79
 Landscaping

Visitor Cards

Have you spotted some new additions to our sanctuary chairs? These cards are designed to allow new visitors to provide their contact info, request info or a pastoral call, as well as existing members to update their contact information

Epistle Changes

You may have noticed the epistle has changed its look and operation! Over the years, we have received feedback on the epistle from numerous members and friends. Recently, we have tweaked the epistle process and design to address this. The new epistle allows us to:

1. Easily update recipients
2. Eliminate "return to sender" and discarded copies
3. Lower the cost of printing and mailing
4. Maximize quality of outreach to preschool and others
5. Include photos
6. Keep the community up to date
7. Free up volunteers and our Parish Secretary

If you would like to receive an epistle, please feel free to grab a printed one at church or fill out the form on the epistle page of our website to receive by mail or email.

Media and Communications



Epistle in Numbers

75 **125**

Printed Digital



@stjamesctlutheran



@stjamesctlutheran



www.stjamesct.org



manville.abigail@gmail.com

November 2022

Regular calendar updates on our website

<https://stjamesct.org/calendar/>

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 2:30pm Worship Team 7:00pm YAFM	2	3	4	5
6 All Saints Sunday	7	8 1pm Ladies' Group	9 Council Reports Due	10	11 Southbury 85th Ann. of Bund Resistance Weekend	12 9am Men's Group 9am Fall Cleanup 11:30am Rice Shelf
13 4pm Jr &Sr High Youth Group	14	15 1pm Evangelism 4pm Fellowship Epistle Contributions	16 7pm Council	17 7pm Finance & Properties	18	19 9am-3pm Forward Leadership
20 11:30am Stewardship Luncheon & Synod Presentation	21	22 7pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	23	24	25	26
27 12pm Advent Wreaths Advent Begins	28	29	30	Holy Communion is offered at all worship services. Gluten free wafers and grape juice available		

WEEKLY EVENTS

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
9:00am Adult Forum	8:00pm AA	9-12pm Parish Admin.	~1:00pm Meditation Call	9-12pm Parish Admin.	2:30-5pm Parish Admin.	
10:15am Worship w/ Sunday School		11:00am Staff Meeting	1:30-3:30pm Pastor Fika 7:00pm Bible Study 8:00pm AA		Pastor Sabbath	Pastor Sabbath

In Our Prayers



Jordyn Neeb	Paul Meberg	Dory Kutz
Rich Neeb	Janet Benzell	Tena Chiappetta
Marie Salvatore	Melody Joy	Caroline Kaiger
Slava Alvarez	Conrad	Diana Larson
Virginia Swenson	Meg	Bruni Dreher
John Magalhaes	Peter Adler	Tammy Faulkner
Priscilla Terhune	Grace Warren	Taylor Morrison
Brian Mons	Roy Warren	Pat Flynn
Bill Martin	James Slywka	Mary Skinski

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 Frank Haddy, Linda Martin, Steve Danek, Lou Pesce, Christine Granskog, Stanley Ulc, Paul Calderone, and Julie Johnson

Prayer List Updates:

The prayer list is edited by request and the full list will be reset this month, following All Saints Sunday. To add to the prayer list or request a name remain on the list, please see Pastor Abby or Liz Skinski.

Prayer alerts are sent via email by Pastor Abby; subscribe on our website. If you wish to receive alerts by phone call or text, please see Karen Lampiasi to be added to the list.

Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am for worship at 111 Peter Road, Southbury, CT. Masks are optional; we ask all to review CDC and CT guidelines to make appropriate choices for your household.