

# The Lampstand

A Periodic Newsletter of

Saint John's Episcopal Church - Niantic



*"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the LAMPSTAND, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

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Pandemic Issue

Fall 2020

St. John's Episcopal Church

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## ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY "MASS ON THE GRASS"

During the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic, we continue to gather outdoors on Rogers Field to celebrate the Holy Eucharist each Sunday morning at 9 am.

So far, we have been blessed with wonderful weather each Sunday. We have continued offering Sunday celebrations of the Holy Eucharist on Rogers Field through August and now into September. Our fall back plan is to move indoors to the sanctuary when it rains on Sundays. Our Covid-19 seating capacity in the Church has been established at 63 persons. This maximum capacity number reflects ¼ (one-fourth) of our normal seating capacity of 250, as established, at our request, by the East Lyme Fire



Marshal's Office in early Spring this year.

Please consider joining your fellow parishioners on Sunday. We are observing **social distancing**. We're urging the wearing of **cloth face coverings/face masks** throughout the service and we provide **hand sanitizer**. At times we'll all pray the "Prayer of Spiritual Communion" in place of actually receiving the consecrated sacraments, we refrain from physical contact at "The Peace" and the gifts of bread and wine are not brought forward at the Offertory. We've eliminated hymn singing. Holy Communion is offered in the form of **consecrated bread only**. We've also eliminated sharing a time of hospitality and refreshments following the service *in person*, but rather doing it by Zoom at 11:00 am. .



Church School programs have continued and will resume, by ZOOM in September.

## Coffee Hour on Zoom

We are meeting each Sunday morning at 11:00 am via Zoom for an online Coffee Hour. BYOC! All are welcome! Find the details on the homepage of our website-



## ANONYMOUS GIFTS RECEIVED DURING THE PANDEMIC

Due to the current Covid-19 Pandemic, it was decided in late May to either cancel or postpone St. John's Annual Summer Carnival. This annual fundraising event has typically raised between \$7,500.00 and \$9,000.00. Shortly after we announced the carnival's cancellation, I received a parishioner's **anonymous** donation to help offset the lost revenue from the carnival's cancellation two additional gifts. (*see below*)

### THREE GENEROUS GIFTS RECEIVED


I am pleased to announce to you that THREE **ANONYMOUS DONATIONS** have been made to St. John's in response to the anticipated lost revenue from the summer carnival and regular Sunday "loose-plate offerings". These parishioners, who wishes to remain anonymous, have made a gifts of **\$ 8,000.00** , **two anonymous gifts of \$5,000.00** Surely, the Holy Spirit is watching over the ministry of St. John's Parish. I ask each of you to offer a private prayer of thanksgiving for these wonderful "votes of confidence and affirmation" of the mission and ministry of St. John's Parish.

### MORE GOOD NEWS...

Since we began offering outdoor celebration of Holy Eucharist on Rogers Field, we have had the benefit of using a *borrowed* public address system, thanks to Vestry Member Patsy Fowler. By most estimates Covid-19 protocols will be around for an extended period of time. So far, we have been blessed with blue skies and sunny Sundays. We hope to continue to take advantage of outdoor worship through the summer and beyond. It became clear that St. John's ought to invest in our own public address system. I am pleased to share news with you that **thanks to a generous offer of support from MRS. JEAN WISEMAN**, we have been able to purchase a much needed *portable public address system* that will serve the parish well, during this Pandemic and in the future. **Thank you SO MUCH, Jean, for your faithfulness, support and generosity. +**




### ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION


 The 234<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut (ECCT) will be held VIRTUALLY, and will be spread over FIVE DAYS in short sessions. Convention dates are: Wed. Oct 14-Sun., Oct 18. St. John's Lay-Delegates to Diocesan Convention are Gina Lincoln and Pam Dolin, Clergy Delegates are Father Dinoto and Mother Phelps. The Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut (ECCT) is the *oldest* Episcopal Diocese in the U.S.





### St. John's Covid-19 Re-Opening Procedures and Protocols


**"Covid-19 Seating Capacity"**-Per the East Lyme Fire Marshal's Office, St. John's seating capacity in the sanctuary and nave is **63**. We will be adhering to this maximum capacity throughout this stage of CT Covid-19 guidelines.


 **Personal Hygiene**-Everyone is urged to frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds whenever possible. In lieu of that, used hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content. *Please feel free to bring your own hand sanitizer to church.*

 **Social Distancing**-Practice maintaining social distancing, keeping a minimum of six feet between people not living in the same household.

 **Face Coverings/Masks**-We urge everyone to respect the safety of others by wearing a cloth face covering or mask. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children younger than 2 years old. Masks should not be worn by anyone who has difficulty breathing, or anyone who is incapacitated and unable to remove the face covering/mask without assistance.

 **Clean and Disinfect**-High-touch areas needing Covid-19 Cleaning and Disinfecting applications. (see "*Disinfection and cleaning products*")

 **Prayerbooks and Hymnals**-have been removed from all pews and chapel chairs in the sanctuary, nave, gallery and narthex.

 **Pew Visitor Cards**-All paper products, including Visitor Cards, pencils, and all brochures and 'handouts' will be removed.

## Protocols and Products for Cleaning and Disinfection

### Areas Needing Cleaning and/or Disinfection

- ✚ **Covid-19 Cleaning & Disinfection-**“High Touch areas”-hard surfaces indoors that are routinely touched by different individuals including but not limited to: desks chairs, doors, doorknobs and handles; pews, countertops, all restroom surfaces (sinks, basins, urinals, toilets, faucets) copiers/scanners, computer equipment, handicap access equipment and hand rails, light switches and climate control devices, lecterns, pulpit piano and Communion rail.
- ✚ **Routine Cleaning Only** (*CDC Guidelines*) Outdoor areas such as benches and railings and other outdoor wooden surfaces; indoor areas such as floors, walls, windows, carpeting, light fixtures and air vent systems.

### Cleaning and Disinfecting Products:

- ✚ **Soaps and Detergents:** Ordinary detergent products such as soap and water are effective for surface cleaning and for removing the virus that causes Covid-19 from potentially affected surfaces.
- ✚ **“ECOLAB Surface Spray”** -multi-surface cleaning and disinfecting spray containing hydrogen peroxide and water-based solution.
- ✚ **“Nature’s Miracle”**-All purpose cleaner. Destroys 99.9% of all bacteria. Product EPA Reg. No. 92972-1-92765.
- ✚ **“MICROBAN”** Sanitizing spray disinfectant. Listed on EPA’s ‘N’ list of disinfectants for use against the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2s. EPA’s N List include products listed with “asthma-safer” ingredients such as hydrogen peroxide, citric acid or lactic acid compounds. EPA’s N List includes disinfecting agents that reduce the risk of triggering asthma attacks when applied to hard surfaces.
- ✚ **ECOLAB Disinfectant Spray**-Hydrogen Peroxide based disinfectant applied following cleaning.
- ✚ **“Tub-O-Towels”**-heavy duty, industrial strength individual cleaning wipes. Disposable, solution soaked, fiber weave wipes.

## Temporary Changes to the Way We Worship

- ✚ **Outdoor Celebrations** of Holy Eucharist on Rogers Field will continue (weather permitting) through Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.
- ✚ **Wednesday Holy Eucharist of Healing**, beginning on **Wed. Sept 30<sup>th</sup>** will be held INDOORS IN THE SANCTUARY at 11:00 a.m.
- ✚ **Sunday Service Bulletins**-Weekly printed Service Bulletins, listing the order of the service of Holy Eucharist will be provided, together with a Scripture Insert. In place of Books of Common Prayer, additional portions of the Eucharist calling for congregational participation will be included, including the Gloria, Nicene Creed, Post-Communion Prayer. Please take the service bulletin home to discard it there.
- ✚ **Exchanging “The Peace”**-At the Exchange of Peace during the Eucharist, please avoid physical contact with non-household members by using verbal or non-verbal gestures.
- ✚ **Holy Communion**-The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be administered in the one “specie”, the Consecrated Host. The Consecrated Host is for Anglicans the **“Real Presence’ of the Body and Blood of Christ.** Our Anglican and catholic theology teaches that Christ is sacramentally and equally present under each specie and therefore is a person receives only one specie , Christ is fully present and the sacrament lacks nothing.
- ✚ **Spiritual Communion**-Worshippers choosing to refrain from receiving and consuming the Consecrated Host, ie. the Body and Blood of Christ, may offer a **Prayer for Spiritual Communion**, which will be available each Sunday.
- ✚ **Hymn Singing**-Choral and congregational hymn singing will continue to be **omitted** from the liturgy until the next stage of CT guidelines allowing it. Soloists will join us from time to time.





Saturday pm

Trying something different. We're Moving Back Indoors  
**SATURDAY, OCT 10th – 5:00 p.m. & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th – 9:00 a.m.**

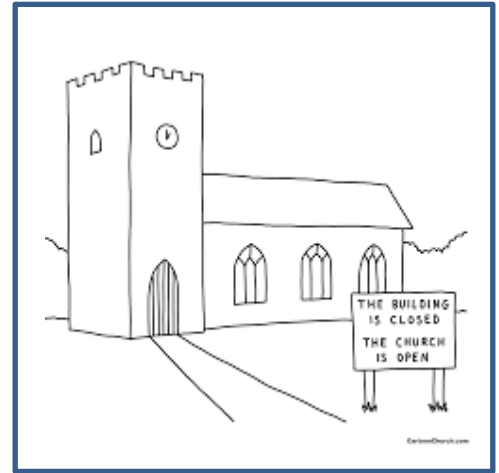
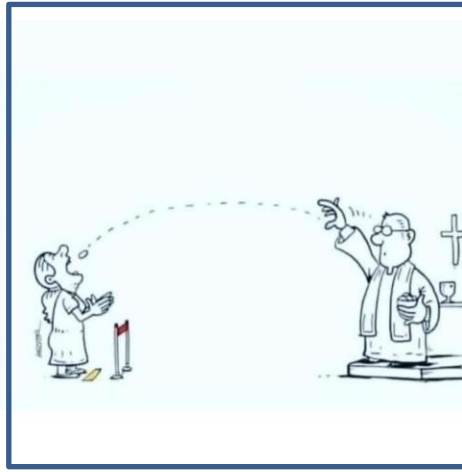
**Something NEW~A Trial Saturday “Vigil” Eucharist  
5:00 p.m.**



Sunday am

**SATURDAY, OCT. 10<sup>TH</sup> AND SUNDAY OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

In order to accommodate the anticipated increase in weekly attendance at the Holy Eucharist, and to make every effort to be safe, we will be returning to **TWO services in October**. We will continue to offer the **9:00 am Sunday Eucharist** in church. The “SOMETHING NEW” is that the added *trial* service of Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on **SATURDAY at 5:00 pm**. Sunday attendance at **OUTDOOR** services these past few months has ranged from low-40’s to close to 70. With two weekend services we will have a maximum capacity of 126. Our Saturday liturgy will include exactly the same elements as the Sunday morning service: Scripture, Organ music, homily, Holy Communion. “**Overflow attendees**” will be accommodated with live streamed Service in other areas of the buildings.



**LOOSE CHANGE SAVING CUPS**



Since the start of the Pandemic, we suspended “**Loose Change Sundays**” spearheaded by our children and young people. We’re bringing it back in a new form. “**LOOSE CHANGE SAVINGS CUPS**” are being distributed so that we can support Youth ministry outreach efforts by collecting our loose change during the **MONTH OF OCTOBER**. **We ask you that you return your SAVINGS CUPS on ALL SAINTS DAY, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**An Election Year Prayer**

O Lord,, forgive us for the times we’ve failed to treat each other as Your creation. Forgive us for celebrating unloving behavior in our candidates and our leaders. Call our leaders and political candidates to a new level of respect and civility. Remind them that you are sovereign and that the wisest choice we can make is to serve you and others. May there be a movement of collaboration and respect in our nation’s capital and throughout the country during this election. **Amen.**



Excerpts from a recent *Hartford Courant* Article  
shared by St. John's Parishioner Richard McNett

### ***“Staying Active in Less Partisan Ways”***

By David Crary Associated Press

NEW YORK – The images were vivid: President Donald Trump brandishing a Bible outside an Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. that had been boarded up amid racial injustice protests. (*riots*) Episcopal leaders reacted with outrage at what they deemed a cynical photo-op. “He didn’t say a prayer...it was used as a matter of partisan politics,” said (*The Most Rev.*) Michael Curry, the denomination’s presiding bishop. That flare-up was notable for another reason. It’s one of the few times that a mainline Protestant (*or Anglican*) denomination entered the national spotlight amid a volatile election year abounding in political news about evangelicals and (*Roman*) Catholics. There’s been a steady stream of news about certain Evangelical leaders—their close alliance with Trump, their occasional defiance of coronavirus-related restrictions on worship services. Meanwhile, Trump’s Democratic rival, Joe Biden, is being assailed by some fellow (*Roman*) Catholics, including bishops, for his support of abortions rights.

Rarely garnering national attention are the mainline Protestant denominations (*or Anglicans*) that dominated America’s political and civic leadership for much of its history, beginning in colonial times. These denominations, including the (*Anglican*) Episcopal Church, (*Protestant*) United Methodist and Presbyterian churches (*and others, i.e. Lutherans, UCC*) are now deeply engaged in campaigns against racism and voter suppression. Yet they haven’t generated controversies this year as headline-grabbing as those involving evangelicals and (*Roman*) Catholics.

“Mainline Christians are often quieter in their public rhetoric,” said Florida based Bishop Kenneth Carter, former president of the United Methodists’ Council of Bishops. “But my experience has been, in every city I’ve lived that many mainline Christians do the heavy lifting in their communities on issues such as homelessness and food insecurity. In every mainline church, (*both Anglican and Protestant*) you’ll find members who are Republican and Democrat.”

“When a pastor crosses the line, you risk saying to a member of a church, ‘Your own beliefs are not valued here.’

“We don’t endorse or oppose a particular candidate, but we do try to uphold moral principles and values that are key to our faith.”, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said.” In general, mainline denominations discourage their pastors from making political endorsements from the pulpit, or from issuing voter guides the way some conservative churches do. These churches have been politically active in a number of less partisan ways, ...registering voters...they also have aligned with widespread protests against racial injustice and police violence against Black people.

## **Women’s Book Study**

Women’s Book Study begins on ***“White Fragility”***. This study group will meet every Tuesday from 9:30-11:30 am on Zoom for 12 weeks and will be reading the book ***“White Fragility”*** together. To get all the details and to register, please visit this link: <http://www.stjohnsniantic.org/womens-bible-study>

## **Youth in Grades 6-12: Join us on Sunday’s at 11:00 am on Zoom**

All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join us at the Coffee Hour Zoom call where we will say hello to our fellow St. John’s parishioners and then break into a breakout room for a youth hangout time. We’ll catch up with each other, read the week’s scripture passage, and discuss what it means. You can use the link in the Coffee Hour link on the homepage of our website. If you have any questions, please contact Faithe at [dyem@stjohnsniantic.org](mailto:dyem@stjohnsniantic.org).

***“Too many people spend money they earned to buy things they don’t want, to impress people they don’t like.”***



St. John's Parish  
**ANNUAL ST. FRANCIS DAY BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> + 12 Noon to 1:00 pm**

**Saint John's Green**

All "denominations" of God's Creatures are Welcome

**RAIN OR SHINE**

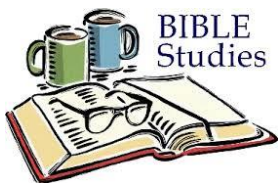


***Saturday Morning "Bible Study"***

Begins this Saturday

Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am

in the Rector's Study



***Everyone is Welcome***

We gather each week from 9:00 to 10:00 am

*If necessary we will gather in the Parish Hall for safe distancing*

