



The Spirit of St. James'

Winter 2022



Welcome to the Season of Advent! Take a moment to dwell in the joy and anticipation of Christmas!

Advent is often rushed and overlooked as everyone eagerly wants Christmas to arrive. St. James' would like to offer a different approach. Savor Advent. Each day take a moment to thank God for your blessings and think about where you were last Advent season.

You overcame challenges, enjoyed precious moments, and looked ahead to this time.

Prayerfully releasing the stresses, burdens and mistakes of the past year while being thankful for the blessings and small miracles can put us in the best place to celebrate the

birth of the Lord. Visit StJamesSkan.org for some Advent resources to help you and your family spend some extra time in prayer, meditation, or devotion this Advent Season. When Christmas arrives, you will be prepared and feel the deep love of His ultimate Gift.

Saturday, December 24

St. James' Episcopal Church Skaneateles welcomes everyone to attend any or all of the Christmas Season Offerings. Experience the beauty and warmth of Christmas inside the decorated candlelit church or online on Facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles as each Christmas Eve service will be live-streamed. However you participate, know that your presence is a treasured gift.

- 3:30 p.m. Christmas Eucharist with Children's Pageant
This first Christmas Eve Eucharist is the perfect way to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Christmas carols and a fun Children's Pageant makes this service perfect for families.
- 6:30 p.m. Eucharist with dramatic contemporary Christmas music featuring guitar, drums, and vocalists.
- 9 p.m. Special Christmas Music Selections
Music for the 9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service will begin setting the mood at 9 p.m. with many familiar carols featuring a string quartet, organ and choir.
- 9:30 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eucharist featuring a string quartet, playing Arcangelo Corelli's sublimely beautiful Christmas Concerto and many familiar carols and Christmas anthems sung by the St. James' Choir.

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

10 a.m. Casual Christmas Worship with Carols

Sunday, January 1, New Year's Day

7:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship Services

11 a.m. Celebratory New Year Brunch in Parish Hall

Inside this Issue

<i>Looking ahead.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Meaning of Advent.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Angel Tree</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Green Corner.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Altar Guild Members Wanted.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Be an Acolyte.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Christmas Flowers.....</i>	<i>7</i>





Looking Ahead...

Calling the curious & former Altar Guild members!

Join us for coffee cake, coffee and tea, and fellowship and polish brass and silver so everything sparkles for Christmas. If you're a past Altar Guild member or someone who'd like to learn what Altar Guild is all about, please join us!

When: Friday, December 9 - 10 a.m. to noon

Where: St. James' Parish Hall

Other details: Feel free to come for all or part of the two hours

Racial Justice & Reconciliation Commission holds monthly discussions. Previous topics include such films as *13th* by Ava DuVernay. Mark your calendar, on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 4 p.m. Dr. Philip Arnold from Syracuse University and his wife, Sandy Bigtree, have accepted the RJRD invitation to speak at St. James' in the Parish Hall. Be sure to watch for more upcoming discussions and programs to attend.

St. James' Stephen Ministry offering training this new year to add to their team. Over 20 years ago Stephen Ministry began at St. James', an ecumenical and international training program for pastoral care. Stephen Ministers have become an important part of this church's pastoral care because these individuals work with St. James' priests to reach more people than our clergy can reach by themselves. It enhances our pastoral outreach where many instead of a few are offering God's love and care in intentional ways.

It started with a team of 4 people; Bishop Skip, Kathy Crowther, Colleen Fisher and Gay Hembach, being trained as Stephen Leaders. Since that time we have offered the 50 hour class every 2 or 3 years, and over 50 people have completed the program which is a two-year commitment. Because of the pandemic, it has been nearly 5 years since offering this vital program. It is time to expand our pastoral ministry presence again.

People often mention how welcoming St. James' is and how they feel cared for, and this program is an integral part of our caring ministries. We often want to reach out and help those who are hurting, but the words or actions we use may unintentionally add to their burden instead of easing their pain. Stephen Minister training will provide you tools, techniques and mindful ways to be a real source of comfort for those struggling. Everyone has the Holy Spirit within and this program allows you to spread God's love in a tangible way to local parish family members.

So many need pastoral care in this stressful world in which we live. St. James' is prayerfully encouraging you to consider the 50 hour training over a course of several weeks starting in January, possibly on Zoom and in person. Please contact Rev. Becky or Nancy Graham at 315.317.0138 if you are interested.

Weekly Schedule at St. James' Skaneateles

Sunday

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II with Organ & Choir*
9 a.m. Saints in Training Sunday school (in-person & zoom)
10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II with Contemporary Music*
*Services live-streamed on facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles

Monday

Rector Becky Coerper's Day Off

Tuesday

7:45 a.m. Centering Prayer (zoom)
10:30 a.m. Dive Deeper Adult Bible Study (zoom)

Wednesday

6 p.m. Evening Prayer (in-person & online)

Thursday

5 p.m. Centering Prayer (zoom)

Friday

7:45 a.m. Centering Prayer (zoom)

ALL BRIGHT BLESSINGS

featuring Finger Lakes Brass Works

Musical treasures of a magical season—set aglow with the harmony of a brass quintet. Your heart will be singing in the key of joy!

Kip Coerper, ChM, Director

Sunday, December 18

4 pm

First Presbyterian Church, 97 E. Genesee St., Skaneateles NY

No ticket needed.

Suggested donation at door: \$10 (adults), 18 & under free.

Proceeds support MasterWorks Chorale.

Approx. length: 1 hour, no intermission.

Dive Deeper Bible Study

Each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. the Rev. Chuck Stewart leads a dynamic group on Zoom in discussion on the upcoming Sunday readings. Diving deeper into the meaning and discussing how these readings can be used today. All are welcome to join in each Tuesday or when you can. To participate, please contact Rev. Chuck Stewart by cnstewartsyr@gmail.com



The Meaning of Advent!

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means “coming” or “arrival.” As a season of the church year, Advent is the four weeks before Christmas that prepares us to celebrate the Nativity, the birth of Christ, on December 25. Christmas is a big mystery. We do not understand how exactly God comes to be among us in human form. Taking time to prepare to celebrate Christmas allows us to enter more fully into the mystery. It is said, if we don’t take time to get ready for Christmas, we could “walk right by this mystery” without ever really experiencing it. And so, we spend the four weeks before Christmas anticipating and preparing for the coming of Christ. Advent has a double spiritual meaning. While anticipating the arrival of the birth of Jesus, we are also anticipating the arrival of the second coming, when Jesus will return to us. Churches using the Revised Common Lectionary will find both themes present in the Sunday lessons during the season of Advent.

Enjoy the calming of coloring? Visit: <https://prayingincolor.com/resources/advent-christmas>. To print unique advent calendars you can color each day of the 2022 Advent season.

Advent Online Meditation Workshop: Led by The Rev. Hillary Raining, D.Min.

Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/advent-22workshop>

Dr. Hillary Raining is Director of the Center for Christian Spirituality and Affiliated Professor of Ascetic and Liturgical Theology at General Theological Seminary in New York City.

A multimedia meditation guide for moments of “hush from the rush” this Advent.

An Opportunity for Restoration in Body and Spirit:

In this workshop, Dr. Raining guides you through a meditation with prayer, scripture, and reflection. The meditation draws upon “An Order for Worship in the Evening” in *The Book of Common Prayer* and features the practice of *visio Divina*, or “divine seeing,” with candlelight. The workshop includes a 15-minute video meditation guide and a printable worksheet for reflection and journaling. It is designed to be a devotional resource that you can use for personal or group meditation again and again throughout the Advent season.

Ways to Deepen the Advent Season

First Sunday of Advent

- Create an Advent wreath and offer your prayers and reflections.

Second Sunday of Advent

- Create a creche to tell the story of Jesus’ birth.

Third Sunday of Advent

- Add to your creche to learn what Jesus needs to grow and thrive.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Honor Mary, the mother of Jesus by creating an ornament for your Christmas tree.



Prepare the way of the Lord!

What is Jesse Tree?

Jesse Tree is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories on Jesus’s family tree. Each day of Advent, read a Bible story about someone on Jesus’s family tree and hang an ornament symbolizing the story on your Jesse Tree. As you decorate your tree, you’ll see how God prepared for Jesus to be born through many generations.

Where does Jesse Tree come from?

The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” Jesse was the father of David, Israel’s greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse’s family tree. Each symbol represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward the birth of Jesus.

Who Was St. Nicholas?

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara in Asia Minor. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus’ words to “sell what you own and give the money to the poor,” Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children and his concern for sailors and ships.

St. Nicholas’ Prayer: God of joy and cheer, we thank you for your servant, the good bishop Nicholas. In loving the poor, he showed us your kindness; in caring for your children, he revealed your love. Make us thoughtful without need of reward so that we, too, may be good followers of Jesus. Amen.

An Invitation for Personal Healing Prayer

Each Sunday at St. James’ Church, during communion, a team of two or three trained prayer partners stand at the Peace Altar, as well as on the opposite side, by the font to provide and lead prayer for those in need. This prayer is confidential and open to anyone who steps forward. Specific and mindful prayer offers tangible comfort. Also, there are hand knit prayer squares at the entrance of the main church for anyone to take. These were all lovingly made to help you feel God’s love as you navigate the challenges of this world. If you have questions or would like to learn more about the prayer team, please contact Michael Brown at michaelbrownmarcellus@gmail.com.

A special thank you to all who participated in the Harvest Party at the Auburn Rescue Mission



Two Giving Opportunities this Year!

Angel Tree Giving

This year, St. James' Church will be adding a new gift donation program for Christmas. It is called Angel Tree and is organized by Prison Fellowship-Jail Ministry. It enables churches like St. James' to buy and deliver gifts for children who have incarcerated parents. The gift provides a tangible expression of love which connects the incarcerated parent to their child. One teenager described the program this way,

"Angel Tree helped mend our relationship because every time my mom signed us up, she let me know she wasn't just thinking about herself that holiday. She was thinking about us, too. It made me feel loved and cared for."

St. James' has committed to purchase gifts for 10 children: 1 clothing and 1 fun gift for each child. All of the families live in Auburn. Please join St. James' in this important ministry of love.

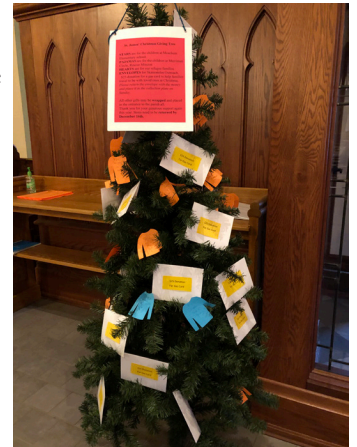
Thank you St. James! All the Angels have been taken off the Angel Tree. There are still opportunities to deliver gifts to the children. If you are interested, please contact Cindy Bright at cgbright1@gmail.com.



Discover the Joy
of Angel Tree Christmas

Outreach Giving Tree

Each year the St. James' family makes Christmas a little better for those less fortunate. There is a tree in the rear of the church with tags. The tags represent a different gift such as gas cards, toys for children from Guatemala, items for Meachem Elementary, and other outreach efforts. Please consider taking one or more tags to make a difference in our local community. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Graham at nancymgraham4@gmail.com.



LEND A HAND: Have 2 hours to spare to help your neighbor in need?

Every Saturday since April 2004, the soup kitchen at Sts. Peter and John Episcopal Church on Genesee Street in Auburn has served lunch to as many as 200 of our hungry neighbors. For almost all of those 18 years, St. James' parishioners have volunteered to prep food and serve on the last Saturday of every month.

Because of COVID-19, the soup kitchen is offering "to go" meals and requires fewer volunteers than it did previously. Here's what they need from St. James:

2 people to prep (9 to 11 a.m.)

2 people to serve (11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

Each month, our pool of volunteers receives an email asking if they can volunteer. If you can help, simply reply with the number of people and the desired shift. No long-term commitment. This is the perfect opportunity for students needing community service hours! It's easy: To be added to the list of volunteers, please contact Corinne Buterbaugh (corinnebuterbaugh@gmail.com).

The Inflation Reduction Act

There are a lot of amazing benefits for people to save money on their electricity bills, make their homes more energy efficient, or reduce individual carbon footprint.

- 30% tax credit on solar systems. The solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC) means you get back nearly a third of the cost of your system if purchased between 2022 and 2032.
- 30% tax credit on energy storage technologies. This credit covers batteries that run on solar energy that can be used to power your home in a grid outage.
- Tax credits for home builders. With these credits for builders, we can expect to see more clean-energy homes on the market.
- Up to \$7,500 tax credit on electric vehicles (EVs).
- 30% tax credit on EV chargers.
- \$8,000 rebate on heat pumps.
- \$1,750 rebate on heat pump water heaters.
- \$840 rebate on electric stoves, cooktops, ranges, and ovens.
- Up to \$4,000 rebate on breaker box upgrades and \$2,500 rebate on electrical wiring.
- Cleaner air. With all these incentives in place, the White House expects a 40% cut in greenhouse emissions from 2005 levels by the end of the decade.

To get more information on the opportunities and how to access them, go to the Natural Resources Defense Council at <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/consumer-guide-inflation-reduction-act>

Did You Know? *By Emma Cowley*

A collage of 20 book covers arranged in a grid-like fashion. The covers include:

- WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE** by Maurice Sendak
- CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS** by David A. Almond
- FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST** by R.D. Laing
- The Secret Garden** by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- KILL RUNNER** by John Langan
- Lolita** by Vladimir Nabokov
- Huckleberry Finn** by Mark Twain
- Moby-Dick** by Herman Melville
- BELOVED** by Toni Morrison
- Vladimir** by Valdis Valters
- For Whom the Bell Tolls** by Ernest Hemingway
- RAY BRADBURY**
- AWAKENING** by Richard Price
- The Glass Castle** by Jeannette Walls
- THE GRASSHOPPER** by John Steinbeck
- 1984** by George Orwell
- Call of the Wild** by Jack London
- CLOCKWORK ORANGE** by Anthony Burgess
- Brave New World** by Aldous Huxley
- The Color Purple** by Alice Walker
- CAT'S CRADLE** by Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

Below are just a few books that have been banned or challenged because they discuss racial issues but there are so many more. There is a banned book club created for those who want to know more and take part in reading these books.

- The Spirit of St. James' / Winter 2022 / Page 5



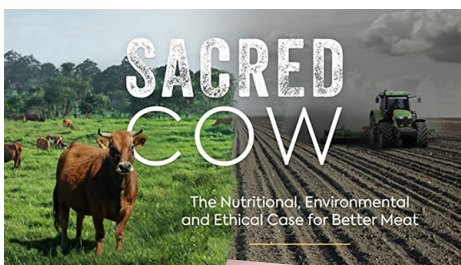
Give a St. James' Lakeside T-shirt for Christmas!

T-shirts cost \$20 (\$22 for 2XL). Contact Laura Posecznick at laura@stjameskan.org to buy yours!

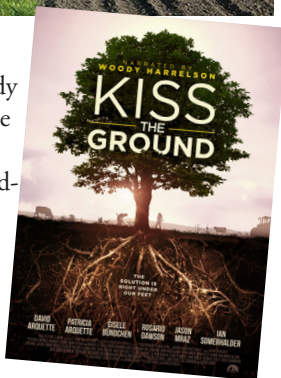


CreationCARE presents Two Movie Discussions on Zoom Dates & Times TBD

January: Sacred Cow, the nutritional, environmental, and ethical case for better meat, which includes an interview with the Rev. Becky & Kip Coerper's son, Ben Coerper.



February: Narrated by Woody Harrelson, Kiss the Ground is an inspiring and groundbreaking film that reveals the first viable solution to the climate crisis, regenerative farming.



Acolytes Always Needed – Join Us Now!

Come serve St. James' and the Lord in an easy and rewarding way. The team of acolytes at St. James' is a strong and reliable group serving both the 7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. services. This team includes youth, men and women – young and not so young – who are reliable, dedicated and terrific, but we want to expand the number of individuals we can call on for this important and helpful church role.

"We would like to have a larger team of acolytes to serve at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., and feast days" says the Rev. Becky Coerper. "And during the winter months, we lose some of our acolytes at the earlier services to warmer southern locations. This means the remaining folks are often filling in more frequently than they would like to ensure everything runs smoothly on Sundays."

"Acolyting is easy," says Bill Buterbaugh, who currently oversees the team and provides training for new acolytes. "First, acolytes control their own schedule. Ahead of each month, everyone is asked what Sundays they can or cannot serve, so they can be scheduled only when available and convenient to work around any other commitments. Second, the training is short. In just an hour, we can give a new acolyte all

the knowledge they need to be an active, effective part of the services. And third, one cannot mess up. The clergy is always there to calmly help an acolyte through any portion of the service he or she may not remember."

As Becky often says, "We are going to do what is planned during a service, OR whatever happens, happens! Oftentimes, it is one of the clergy that forgets to do something and it's the acolyte that comes to the rescue by reminding us what we forgot to do."

"But most important, is that our acolytes find that serving with the clergy is highly rewarding. Being an active, but quietly engaged component of a successful service makes one feel good about being part of St. James'. You're helping to ensure each service is executed with the ease and reverence we strive for – making YOU critical to delivering a meaningful experience, whether that be comforting, inspirational or uplifting, for our parishioners."

Please prayerfully consider helping us expand our team. If you or a member of your family would like to try acolyting, contact Laura Posecznick at 315.409.3468 or laura.posecznick@gmail.com to work with you to find a convenient time for training.

HELP WANTED: Looking for a few good men (or women)

Each week, our Altar Guild members prepare the altar for Sunday services. This involves setting the altar and credence table, filling candles with liquid paraffin, and other behind-the-scenes but VERY IMPORTANT tasks. Although traditionally the domain of women, St. James Altar Guild warmly welcomes men, teens, and women.

Because the candelabras used at festive services – Christmas, Easter, funerals, weddings, and baptisms – are quite heavy, we especially need younger members to join our ranks.

Team members generally serve on Saturday mornings (once a month – for 30 to 45 minutes) and one Sunday morning a month – before or after the service they normally attend. Total time commitment is no more than 90 minutes a month. Each team is responsible for one weekend a month.

We are FLEXIBLE. Some members work or have other commitments on Saturday and can only help on Sunday.



Although "altar stuff" has a mysterious aura around it, serving on Altar Guild is pretty simple and very rewarding. You will be trained and never work alone—teamwork is the name of the game on Altar Guild! To learn more, contact: Corinne Buterbaugh (315-685-0859 or corinnebuterbaugh@gmail.com).



Christmas Flower Offering 2022

Christmas is Coming! St. James' is working hard to prepare the extra special decorations.

Please consider donating for the flowers, decorations and music for the Christmas season.

The best way to donate is to write a check to St. James' Church with **memo line of "Christmas Flowers"** along with the bottom half of this sheet containing the names of your loved ones you wish to honor.

There will also be Christmas Flower envelopes in the pew pockets in church.

Be sure to clarify those "in honor of" or "in memory of" and print clearly.

Please send all names to the Parish Office by December 15th.

If you have any questions, please email stjamesparishoffice@gmail.com
or call the Parish Office at 3315.685.7600.

St. James' Episcopal Church, 96 East Genesee Street, Skaneateles, NY 13152

Donator Name: _____

Contact Phone: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Amount Donated: \$ _____

St. James' thanks you for all your generosity in helping make Christmas special.

STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper, Rectorbecky@stjameskan.org
The Rev. Chuck Stewart, Deaconchuck@stjameskan.org
Laura Posecznick, Director of Congregational Lifelaura@stjameskan.org
Children's Ministry Team Leader
Kip Coerper, Organist-Choirmasterkip@stjameskan.org
Michael Larkin, StJamesSkanParishOffice@gmail.com
Office Manager & Director of Contemporary Music & Technology
Nicole Bova, Parish Accountant nicole@stjameskan.org
Nancy Graham, Coordinator of Pastoral Care nancy@stjameskan.org

MINISTRY LEADERS

Nancy Graham, Newcomers Contact nancy@stjameskan.org
Editor of the Weekly News ~ Laura Posecznicklaura@stjameskan.org
Editors of the Spirit
Jon Glassjnglass@syr.edu
Terry Askey-Cole/Laura Posecznicklaura@stjameskan.org
Parish Nurses
Jean Gannon jeanrrn2@yahoo.com
Nancy Corl njcorl@verizon.net

Welcome to St. James'!

St. James' is a vibrant, open, joyful, fun-loving community of faith. We are intentional about growing in relationship with God and one another, about caring for the earth God created, and about serving the needs of the world God loves. Whether you are passing through the area, in town for a while, or looking for a spiritual home, we are delighted to welcome you.

May God Bless You,
Becky Coerper
St. James' Senior Pastor

2022 St. James' Vestry

Wardens

Bill Spalding (2021-2023)
Susanne Rynkiewicz (2022-2024)

Vestry Members

Amy Allyn (2021-2024)
Margie Amberge (2022-2025)
Michael Brown (2022-2025)
Barbara Burton (2021-2024)
Nancy Corl (2021-2024)
Megan Glass (2022-2023)
Doug Smith (2021-2023)
Diane Steckel (2022-2025)
Anne Sveen (2020-2023)

Give to Grow Campaign Continues

In the fall of 2022, St. James' embarked on a campaign to raise money to fund the Leadership sleeve of the Foundation that supports clergy. The immediate need is for an assistant Rector as St. James' has grown over the years. Everyone is invited to "give to grow" both in the short and long term by contributing to the St. James' Foundation now and in the future. Your gift will ensure St. James' continues to grow as an active and vibrant Christian community, with parishioners alive in their faith and sharing God's love with the world. To learn more, feel free to pick up a Give to Grow brochure on the welcome tables or visit StJamesSkan.org/give-to-grow.

StJames
Give to Grow
campaign



Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

[Facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles)
[Instagram.com/StJamesSkaneateles](https://www.instagram.com/StJamesSkaneateles)



96 East Genesee Street, Skaneateles,
NY 13152 • 315.685.7600
www.StJamesSkan.org

