



**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
405 EAST MAIN STREET
BATAVIA, NEW YORK**

NEWSLETTER—APRIL 2016

We are an Easter people, and “Alleluia” is our song!

St. Augustine

My dear friends,

Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

These are not just words to be recited; they are our words, they define our way of living in this world. What do they mean to you? How does Jesus’ triumph over death create life in you and point you forward? Sometimes the way forward seems cloudy or frightening, as if our goals, prayers or aspirations fall on deaf ears. As I am writing it is Wednesday in Easter week, and the first lesson appointed for today is from the Book of Acts, 3:1-10. Peter and John encounter a man who had been lame from birth sitting in front of the Temple, asking for alms. Peter says to the man “You have asked for money, I don’t have any money to give you. But I do have something and I’m going to share it with you.” In the name of Jesus, Peter healed the man and for the first time in his life he jumped up and walked. The lame man didn’t get what he asked for, but what he did receive was much, much better.

Does this sound familiar to you?

We pray “*Dear God, please give me ...*” (insert whatever it is that you want).

We hear: “*No, not now.*”

But what God is really saying is: “*I love you so much. So much, in fact, that I am going to give you something much, much better than what you asked for. You may have your prayers answered, or maybe they just can’t be answered in the way you want, right now. Trust me. I love you, and I want only the best for you and I am with you.*”

Living as an Easter Person is a combination of hope and reality. We live, we move, we hope and we pray. Sometimes we see prayers answered; sometimes it seems as if life only presents challenges. God listens to each one of us, individually, uniquely. Through it all we say “Alleluia!” Because we know that Christ is risen, that God is with us.

Your Sister in Christ,
Mother Bonnie+

In Hebrew bible “Hallelujah” is a two-word phrase.

“Hallelu” is the verb “praise” and “Jah” is God the Creator.

It means more than “praise God”. It implies a joyous praise in song, to boast in God.

Senior Warden's Report:

Another fish fry season has passed, and another winter with it—at least let's hope. The weather will do whatever it wants, but the fish fry was another huge success. For the first time we were able to share our success with the folks from St. Mark's and St. Paul's. A full report will be forthcoming from Wayne and Jim. Everyone involved deserves a collective "well done" from all three congregations.

Mother Bonnie, the wardens and the vestry members are all looking forward to the retreat on April 9th. This will allow all of us to focus our energies on doing what is best for St. James in the future. Through prayer and contemplation all of us will be able to call on God's grace and look at the tasks set before us as opportunities, not burdens. This retreat will be held at First Presbyterian Church, to get us in a more "neutral" setting, away from the distractions of our home turf. We would appreciate the thoughts and prayers of the congregation as we take this journey.

On a more secular note, the wardens, treasurers and the rector will begin the process of going over this year's budget to see if we can come up with some cost cutting measures along with possible increases in revenue to improve our financial health over the next couple of years. If you have any specific ideas pass them along to me. I would much appreciate them.

Wednesday May 18th will be the United Way Day of Caring. Once again these volunteers will be helping clean up the grounds here at St. James, more information to come.

Thanks, Jim Neider, Senior Warden

An Easter Message from Bishop Franklin

"Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ

our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Today we celebrate the most important day in the Christian calendar. We celebrate the resurrection of Christ. On this day we celebrate the victory of life over death. We celebrate the gift of eternal life that has been given to each one of us. This is the core of what faith in Christ is all about. We have been given everlasting life, death no longer has any power over us. Death is no longer the last word, it is merely the door to life eternal.

As we celebrate the joy of the resurrection let us not forget that we are not meant to receive the gift of everlasting life for ourselves alone. We are all called to share the gift of everlasting life with the whole world. We are called to share the presence and the story of Christ with our world. We are also called to take the faith that death has no power over us and the courage that faith gives us to reconcile the world to God and to reconcile us each to one another.

The power of the Resurrection is the power to act. It is the power for each of us to be agents of reconciliation. It is the power for each of us to seek and serve Christ in all persons. It is the power for each of us to strive for justice and peace among all people. We can do this because we need to no longer fear death, the greatest power of this world can no longer harm us. We can go out into the world in joy & peace and proclaim the message of Christ through word and action. This is what Christ has won for us.

May the joy of Christ be with you all and may the power of Christ inspire us to change our world.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

The Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin
Eleventh Bishop of Western New York

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Happy Birthday to our April Birthdays!

We pray God's blessing be with you on your special day and every day.

David King 4/1
Joanne Lega 4/27

Jolene Folger 4/16
Wayne Townsend 4/29

Soup Sunday

We will be having our next **Soup Sunday on April 10th**. Plan to stay for Coffee Hour and enjoy some homemade soup. It's a good week to bring a friend. If you would like to contribute a pot of soup, please contact Jo-Ann Bestine.

Springtime Thanksgiving

It's time again for our fourth annual Saint James Thanksgiving dinner. And why not in April? It's always the right time of year to give thanks. A traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be served on **Saturday, April 30th, at 5:30**. As usual, we are featuring some of our bakers' delicious homemade pies. This is an excellent opportunity to invite family and friends who may like to be included in the fellowship at Saint James. It is important to have an accurate count so please let the church office or Jo-Ann Bestine know by April 22nd how many will be in your dining party. Be sure to put this occasion on your social calendar.

Spring is Here, but Winter is Coming Again!

Now is a terrific time to purchase winter items for the needy. If you are out shopping you may have noticed that the wintery hats, mittens, and scarves are marked down; some at a considerable discount. If you would like to pick something up and bring it into church, we can store them until needed next winter. There is a need for men's, women's, and children's winter wear. Several local agencies distribute them to those in need. If any questions, contact Jo-Ann Bestine.

Wednesday Morning Holy Eucharist

Every Wednesday at 11 a.m. we celebrate the Holy Eucharist in our beautiful chapel. This a short quiet service, filled with beauty, prayer and community.

On the **fourth Wednesday of every month**, we will hold our service at The Manor House. It will be at 10:45 (15 minutes earlier than usual) in the Grand Parlor. The Manor House is just one block east at 427 East Main Street. Everyone is welcome—parishioners, visitors, newcomers, people who live at The Manor, people who don't. Come and join us and help us to bring a bit of St. James outside of our walls!

Wednesday Noon Bible Study

Due to popular demand, we will continue to hold our bible study in the Guild Room at Noon on Wednesdays through out the spring. Currently we are reading through the Gospel of Mark. No experience needed, just a desire to engage in a discussion our scriptures and how they relate to us in our lives. **All are welcome**—we have several people who attend from other denominations. Come in join in the discussion.

Thrift Store

We are open every Thursday, but to do that we need people to volunteer. Men can volunteer also. People are needed for two shifts on Thursdays, 9 am- 12 noon and from 12 noon to 2 pm. Also people are needed for set-up. Usually set-up is on a Tuesday afternoon. Can't you give us just a couple of hours of your time?

Cleaning House? Don't forget the Thrift Store: clothing, housewares, books, toys, linens—all are gratefully accepted!

I can help St. James!

Do you love St. James? Do you want it to succeed, grow, prosper and spread Christ's light into the world? Excellent, I know the answer is "YES!" So, the next thing you will ask is..."How can I help make that happen?" The first and most important thing is by being a member of our worshiping community. Sundays, Wednesdays and special services give us all the opportunity to come to together to worship and praise God. That is the foundation, the rock upon which we are built. Inspired with the spirit of God's love we are called to bring our gifts and talents to the community. How can you help? If you have a question about a committee or activity, talk with Mother Bonnie+

Donations and Help Needed

Things we are collecting to help others -- Please keep in mind the things we are gathering and passing on to organizations to help them in their efforts:

Manufacturer's Coupons	--for Military families
Food Staples	--for Genesee Food Pantry
Box Top for Education icons	--for Liz Findlay's 6th Grade class
Aluminum Pull tabs	--for Juvenile Diabetes

Crossroads House

Crossroads House has a wish list of items they always need. To name a few: coffee creamer/flavored liquid, postage stamps, gift cards, baby wipes, hearty canned soups (Progresso), and the list goes on. If you can help in any way it is greatly appreciated.

Crossroads House: 11 Liberty St, PO Box 403, Batavia, New York 14021, Phone: 585.343.3892, <http://crossroadshouse.com/>

April Sunday Worship Participants Schedule

	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24	May 1
Chalice 1	Carol Queal	Bonnie Dvoroznak	Judy Essig	Cathy Judkins	Theresa DeMars
Chalice 2	Barb King	Theresa DeMars	Jim Ellison	Jo-Ann Bestine	Carol Queal
1st Lesson	Lilo Townsend	Wayne Judkins	Joan Ellison	Rose Rumery	Theresa DeMars
2nd Lesson	Jim Neider	Jim Ellison	Cathy Judkins	Liz Findlay	Joan Ellison
Prayers of People	Larry Belluscio	Liz Findlay	Steve Hawley	Chip McGuire	Jim Neider
Acolytes	Diane Cox Jaycob Belluscio	Jeff Tress Scott Essig	Dean Perry Jenna Essig	Jaycob Belluscio Jeff Tress	Jenna Essig Scott Essig
Ushers	Peg & Alan Abrams	Diane & Kevin Skelton	Betsy Dexheimer Don Fox	Nancy Harrington Russ Dvoroznak	Kathy & Larry Belluscio
Greeters	Cathy & Wayne Judkins	Russ Dvoroznak Wayne Townsend	Larry Belluscio Russ Dvoroznak	Peg & Alan Abrams	Wayne & Cathy Judkins
Element Bearers	Karen & Harold Odell	Larry & Kathy Belluscio	Jolene & Dick Folger	Diane & Kevin Skelton	Donna Kauffman Nancy Harrington
Nursery	Jenna Essig	Amy Cassidy	Joanne Fleming	Jo-Ann Bestine	Amy Cassidy
Altar Guild	Donna Kauffman Jo-Ann Bestine Joanne Fleming	Pat Roblee Jolene Folger	Kathy Belluscio Karen & Harold Odell	Bette Rung Carol Queal	Donna Kauffman Jo-Ann Bestine Joanne Fleming
Counters	John Swartz Liz Findlay	Larry Belluscio Ron Fancher	John Swartz Ron Fancher	Larry Belluscio Barb Pierce	John Swartz Barb Pierce
Coffee Hour	Jo-Ann Bestine	Soup Sunday	Bonnie Dvoroznak	Kathy Belluscio	Essig's
Flower Delivery	None	None	Karen & Harold Odell	Lilo Townsend	Kathy Belluscio

April Calendar

Abbreviations: HE = Holy Eucharist Gen Chorale = Genesee Chorale, Gen Y Chorale = Genesee Youth Chorale Choir Reh = Choir Rehearsal						1	2
3 8:30-Choir Reh 10:00 HE Sunday School 11:15 Coffee Hour	4 7:00 Gen Y Chorale 8:00 Gen Chorale	5 7:00 Bldgs & Grounds	6 11:00 HE 12:00 Bible Study	7 9-2 Thrift Store 2:00 Wardens mtg	8	9 Vestry Retreat Day	
10 8:30-Choir Reh 10:00 HE Sunday School 11:15 Coffee Hour	11 7:00 Gen Y Chorale 8:00 Gen Chorale	12 5:30 ECW	13 11:00 HE 12:00 Bible Study	14 9-2 Thrift Store 2:00 Wardens mtg	15	16	
17 8:30-Choir Reh 10:00 HE Sunday School 11:15 Coffee Hour	18 7:00 Gen Y Chorale 8:00 Gen Chorale	19 7:00 Vestry	20 11:00 HE 12:00 Bible Study	21 9-2 Thrift Store 2:00 Wardens mtg	22	23	
24 8:30-Choir Reh 10:00 HE Sunday School 11:15 Coffee Hour	25 7:00 GenY Chorale 8:00 Gen Chorale	26	27 10:45 HE at The Manor House 12:00 Bible Study 5:30 Bell Choir	28 9-2 Thrift Store 2:00 Wardens mtg	29 7:00 Genesee Choral Concert	30 5:30 Springtime Thanksgiving	



St. James Episcopal Church

405 East Main Street
Batavia, NY 14020

Rector: The Rev. Bonnie F. Morris
rector.stjames@outlook.com

Director of Music: Theresa DeMars

Organist: David Lange

Administrator: Barb King

Sexton: Gerrit Wilk

The Wardens and Vestry:

Sr. Warden: Jim Neider, (585) 409-8891, jneider@rochester.rr.com

Jr. Warden: Russ Dvoroznak, (585) 737-1577, bonnie3473@yahoo.com

Vestry:

Diane Cox, Bonnie Dvoroznak,

Jim Ellison, Elizabeth Findlay,

Dean Perry, Barbara Pierce, Ron Fancher,

Lilo Townsend, Barb King

Co Treasurers: Steve Rumery and Jim Ellison

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