# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M. SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome to St. John's! We invite you to help create the experience of silence before our service. Our hope is to calm our hearts as we prepare to enter into an intensity of shared presence. To ensure newcomers feel welcomed, position prompts are provided throughout our bulletins. If standing or kneeling is uncomfortable for you, please know it is fine to remain seated.

Prelude Erschienen is der herrliche Tag

J. G. Walther (1684-1748)

All rise at the sound of the church bell.

Hymn 529, standing In Christ there is no East or West

*Presider* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

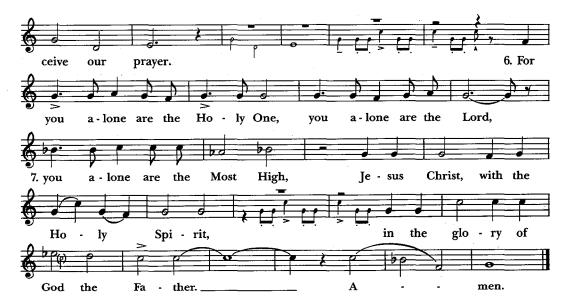
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Glory to God S-278 Gloria in excelsis



W. Mathias

MCKEE



### The Collect of the Day

Presider	The Lord be with you
People	And also with you.
Presider	Let us pray.
	1

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

You may be seated.

### The First Lesson: Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, `Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, `What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, `Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. *People* **Thanks be to God.** 

The Psalm is sung by the Choir. Please remain seated.Psalm 148Laudate Dominum

### T.A. Walmisley

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; \* praise him in the heights.

2 Praise him, all you angels of his; \* praise him, all his host.

3 Praise him, sun and moon; \* praise him, all you shining stars.

4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, \* and you waters above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the Name of the Lord; \* for he commanded, and they were created.

6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever; \* he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

7 Praise the Lord from the earth, \* you sea-monsters and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, \* tempestuous wind, doing his will;

9 Mountains and all hills, \* fruit trees and all cedars;

10 Wild beasts and all cattle, \* creeping things and winged birds;

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, \* princes and all rulers of the world;

12 Young men and maidens, \* old and young together.

13 Let them praise the Name of the Lord, \* for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.

14 He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, \* the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!

### The Second Lesson: Revelation 21:1-6

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. *People* **Thanks be to God.** 

### Hymn 581, standingWhere charity and love prevailCHESHIRE

### Holy Gospel: John 13:31-35, standing

PresiderThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Presider	The Gospel of the Lord.
People	Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Sermon**Cockles and Mussels, Alive, Alive-O**The Rev. Wilbert "Wilk" Miller**Silence and stillness are kept after the sermon.

The Nicene Creed, standing

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

he asc He will come and hi We believe in who p With t He ha We be We ac We loo	e third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; ended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. again in glory to judge the living and the dead, is kingdom will have no end. the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, proceeds from the Father and the Son. the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. s spoken through the Prophets. lieve in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. knowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. ok for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. e People, <i>standing</i>
Intercessor	Let us pray for all the people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Intercessor	O God of all that is and will be, fill us with the desire to continue Christ's mission, as we await the coming of the new heaven and the new earth where we will dwell eternally with You. Alleluia! Christ is risen.
People	The Lord is risen indeed. Alelluia!
Intercessor	Inspire us to be your just voice for all who suffer due to the callousness of those who govern on this earth, in this country, or in our community. Alleluia! Christ is risen.
People	The Lord is risen indeed. Alelluia!
Intercessor	Ignite the imaginations of those we have chosen to bring us the Good News, to help us find new ways together to learn, grow, and embody Christ's commandment to love. We pray especially for our presiding bishop Sean, our bishops Jeff and Laura, our interim pastor Wilk, and our newly called rector Elaine. Alleluia! Christ is risen.
People	The Lord is risen indeed. Alelluia!
Intercessor	Calm the fears and anguish of all who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, and fill those who care for the suffering with compassion and stamina. Be especially with those we now name aloud and in our hearts ( <i>silence is kept</i> ) Alleluia! Christ is risen.
People	The Lord is risen indeed. Alelluia!
Intercessor People	Ease the sorrow of those who grieve by knowing that those who have left this mortal home now drink from your eternal water of new life, where mourning and crying and pain are no more. Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alelluia!
Intercessor	With alleluias in our hearts and on our lips we commend to your care all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. <b>Amen.</b>

The Peace, standingPresiderThe peace of the risen Christ be always with you!PeopleAnd also with you!Then the ministers and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

### Welcome and Announcements, seated

## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

### **Offertory Sentence**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *The congregation's offering for the mission and ministry of the church is received. Please be seated.* 

### Anthem "O love"

### E. Hagenberg (b. 1979)

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, That in thy ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be. O Joy that seeks me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain, That morn shall tearless be.

### **Presentation**, standing

*The congregation's gifts of bread, wine, and money are presented and placed on the Holy Table. Weekly donations to the Shoreline Pantry are placed before the Altar.* 

*In keeping with ancient tradition and Easter joy, the people are invited to remain standing for the Eucharistic Prayer and to receive Holy Communion throughout the Easter season.* 

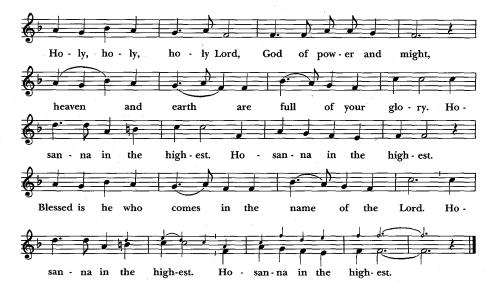
### The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP p. 361

Presider	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Presider	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Presider	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### Sanctus S-125



### The people stand as the Presider continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

### Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

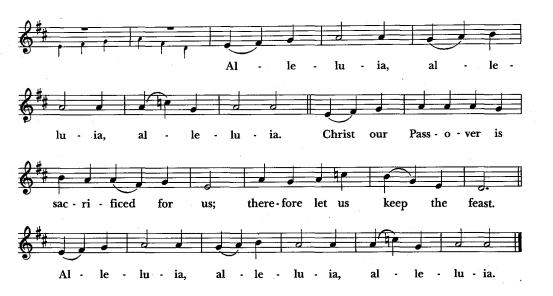
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the gloryfor ever and ever. Amen.

### Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S-155 Christ our Passover



### The Invitation to Communion

*Presider* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding one arm across your chest. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.

### Hymn 304 I come with joy to meet my Lord

### LAND OF REST

G. Near

### Prayer after Communion, standing

Presider	Let us pray.
People	Eternal God, heavenly Father,
	you have graciously accepted us as living members
	of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
	and you have fed us with spiritual food
	in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
	Send us now into the world in peace,
	and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
	with gladness and singleness of heart;
	through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Blessing, standing

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight. And the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.** 

### Hymn 457, *standing* Thou art the Way, to thee

**ST. JAMES** 

# The DismissalPresiderAlleluia, Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!PeopleThanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

### Postlude Voluntary

W. Boyce (1711-1779)

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### **Easter Liturgical Notes**

During the Easter season, St. John's will observe a number of changes in our liturgical practice:
1-We will stand throughout the Eucharistic Prayer and when we receive Holy Communion;
2-There will be no Confession of Sin during these days of Easter (of course, should you wish to confess your sins, please arrange a time with our pastor; also, please see "The Reconciliation of a Penitent," pg. 447 in the Book of Common Prayer).

These changes are ways we give voice to the total joy of the Easter season. Rather than emphasizing contrition, sinfulness, and restraint, we celebrate the wondrous joy of Christ's resurrection.

As always, should you have any questions, please see our interim pastor, Wilk Miller.

### St. John's Prayer List

Pat Brainard, Jinny Buracchi, Max Bowers, Brandon, Connie Cliffe, Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin, Ed Donovan, Sherley Furgueson, Jeff Going, Raymond Guarino, Nancy Gould, Erna Jensen, Pauline Kezer, Ken Kemer, Brigida Matute, Astrid Pensa, Gianna Porcelli, Marguerite Quigley, Dorothy Rider, Jimmy Savoie, Janet Schuman-Andrew, Kathe Woodside.

### **Altar Flowers**

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Eleanor and Truman Hermansen in honor of their 62nd wedding anniversary by their daughter Linda Board.

### **Available Sunday Altar Flowers Dates**

There are many dates available for 2025! If you want to celebrate an anniversary, birthday, or remember a loved one with your church family, please contact Chelsea DiDonato at 860-767-8095 ext. 10 or chelsea@stjohnsessex.org.

**Dates Available:** 

June 1, June 22, June 29, July 27, August 10, August 24, August 31, September 7, September 14, September 21, September 28, October 5, October 12, October 19, December 7, December 14, December 21, December 28

### **Tuesday Morning Eucharist During Easter Season**

11:15 a.m. — (Immediately following Bible Study)

At the 1/2 hour Tuesday morning Eucharist during the Easter season.

# Tuesday Morning Bible Studies 10 - 11 a.m. in the Parish Hall

May 6 The Post Resurrection Experiences of the Disciples with Dan Welch

May 13 The Very Strange Easter Ending of Mark's Gospel with Wilk Miller

May 20 How the Disciples Were Turned Around by Christ's Resurrection with Patricia Schuman Pittsinger

May 27 How We Catch Fire and Are Turned Around with the Holy Spirit with Patricia Schuman Pittsinger

### Tuesday Night Bible Study at 5:30 p.m. Parish Hall — May 13, 20, and 27

Before Galatians became scripture, it was a letter.

It was a letter written by Paul to a congregation he had founded, a congregation of gentiles who were being convinced by other christian missionaries that to be a proper follower of Jesus, you had to be Jewish. Since the early church was still trying to figure out what Jesus meant, this could be expected, but Paul is not happy about it — no, he is not. In the argument he makes in defense of the Gospel he preached, we can see the working out of what we understand Christianity to be — this is one of the fundamental texts of our religion. I'm going to try something different in this class. Galatians was meant to be read aloud — not many people back then were able to read, and, even now, it is easier to understand when spoken. So we are going to be reading aloud - if you have been itching to overemote, this class might be your big chance.

### You're Invited: Newcomers' Reception – RSVP Today!

Are you new to St. John's or haven't had a chance to attend a newcomers' event yet? We'd love to welcome you at our early summer social on Sunday, June 1, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club. Come enjoy delicious appetizers, drinks, friendly conversation, and stunning waterfront views—all in a relaxed, no-pressure setting. Meet fellow parishioners, clergy, Vestry, and Newcomers' Committee members as you learn more about our vibrant church family. Please RSVP to Meghan Wrinn at meghan@stjohnessex.org or sign up at the table in the Narthex by May 25. We can't wait to see you there!

### Honoring Service Members for Memorial Day

Help us remember members of the military who served and have died since Memorial Day last year. Their names will be included in the meditation garden at the front of the church on Memorial Sunday. Émail or text Marlene Going the name of the person, the branch of the military in which he or she served and the person's date of death. (email: mjgosxct@gmail.com; text: 860-581-0533).

If you are new to the parish and have relatives or friends who previously died in service to this country or since, please provide their name, branch of service, and conflict in which served so that we may add them to our parish military lists. These will appear in the parish hall or in the church on Memorial Sunday.

#### Remember and Celebrate Memorial Day at St. John's Sixth Sunday of Easter — May 25

Come together on Sunday, May 25, following each service as we lay a wreath at the foot of the cross in the Memorial Garden in remembrance of the deceased who have served our country. Join us afterward for a reception in the parish hall between services in celebration of the ten year ministry we have shared with the Old Lyme VFW providing assistance to retired servicemen and women with a variety of needs. During the reception we will receive an update on some of these.

### Sunday, June 1 The Right Rev. Laura Ahrens, Suffragan Bishop of Connecticut

### Forum: Questions and Responses Parish Hall — 9:00 a.m.

The Right Rev. Laura Ahrens will preside and preach at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services. In addition, she will lead a "Questions and Responses" forum at 9:00 a.m., offering an opportunity for learning and discussion with light refreshments.

### Pentecost Sunday — June 8, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

Pentecost is almost here, and St. John's is ready to celebrate the Holy Spirit with joy and warmth! This lively feast commemorates the moment the Holy Spirit rushed into the early church like a mighty wind, bringing courage, unity, and those iconic tongues of flame. Often called the "birthday of the Church," Pentecost is the perfect time to gather as a community and rejoice in the Spirit's renewing power. Don't forget to dress up and wear red!

### Ways to Give Back at St. John's

### **Bill's Blessing**

Support Bill's Blessings, a ministry that provides essential hygiene and household items to those in need. Everyday necessities like soap, toothpaste, and laundry detergent can be found affordably at local stores, while larger items like paper towels and toilet paper can be ordered in bulk and shipped directly to St. John's. Donations may be placed downstairs in the Undercroft for distribution to Soup Kitchen guests. For questions, contact the office, speak with an Usher, or connect with Mary Bowers. Thank you for your generosity!

### Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries: Westbrook Food Pantry

Each week, St. John's delivers your generous donations to the Westbrook Food Pantry, part of the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries. Let's keep the momentum going by contributing non-perishable items from their current wish list, including cereal, juice, soup, peanut butter, tuna, canned fruit, canned corn, pasta, pasta sauce, oatmeal, white rice, dried beans, protein bars, and breakfast items. Donations can be placed in the Cross Street hallway near the offices. For questions, please contact the office or speak with an Usher. Thank you for your continued support!

### Start Spring Cleaning for Rummage Sale

It is spring cleaning time, so now is the time to prepare for our Annual Rummage Sale. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m,

Opportunities for you to help: Start packing away items you want to donate (please be sure they are clean). Volunteer (contact Lois Bennet at loibb@gmail.com)

Unfortunately, we are unable to store items for you this year.

Acceptable Items: house hold and decorative items, antiques and collectables, clothing, shoes, belts, scarves, etc, vintage wear, collectible artwork, sporting goods, tools and garden equipment, bicycles, jewelry (including kids jewlry), and boutique items.

**Unacceptable:** toys, books, textbooks, magazines, linens, bedding, decorative pillows, cushions, electronics (TVs, computers, etc), exercise equipments.

### Seeking Volunteers — A Sacred Place

A Sacred Place (ASP) is a nonprofit organization supporting incarcerated women at York Correctional Institute in Niantic, CT. ASP offers transformative programs that help women reconnect with their families, find spiritual direction and build hope for the future.

They are currently seeking compassionate volunteers to support various programs, including family interaction support through their Storybook and Caregiver & Me programs. In addition, ASP needs qualified individuals to support spiritual direction through its Houses of Healing program. Your time and skills can make a real difference in the lives of women seeking healing and growth. (If you cannot volunteer inside a correctional facility setting, there are still many meaningful ways to help!)

Interested in volunteering? You can learn more about our mission and initiatives on ASP's website: <u>asacredplace.org</u>. Please reach out to Allison or Ann, their Co-Executive Directors, at info@ascredplace.org.

### **CLERGY & PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Wilbert "Wilk" Miller, *Interim Pastor* wilk@stjohnsessex.org/860-767-8095 x.12

Chelsea DiDonato, *Communications Director & Parish Administrator* 

chelsea@stjohnsessex.org/860.767.8095 x. 10

Anthony Pandolfe Jr., *Director of Music & Organist* anthony@stjohnsessex.org/ 860.767.8095 x.17

Meghan Wrinn, *Program & Events Coordinator* <u>meghan@stjohnsessex.org</u>

Manuel Matute, *Sexton* Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper* 

### VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS

Nancy Haslam, Prayer Shawl Ministry Marlene Going, Weekly Food Collection Stephanie Patterson, Altar Guild Peggy Tuttle, Pastoral Care Card Ministry Jennifer Miller, Meal Ministry Ernie Brainard, Candle Master Nat Eddy, Outreach Committee Jan Perruccio, Newcomers Committee

### **VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS**

Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds* John Rogers, *Treasurer* Clio Coles, *Assistant Treasurer* Charlie Walden, *Investment Oversight Committee* 

**VESTRY** Wesley Henry, *Warden*; Jan Perruccio, *Warden*; Stephanie Patterson, *Vestry Clerk*; John Rogers, *Treasurer*; Lois Blood Bennett, Linda Board, Tony Custodio, Leigh Dorrington, Nat Eddy, Peter Holland, Patti Pickering, Jane Riggio, Kevin Walsh



WORSHIP SUNDAYS | Holy Eucharist — 8:00 & 10:15 a.m. TUESDAYS | Bible Study — 10:00 a.m. TUESDAYS | Midweek Holy Eucharist — 11:15 a.m.

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