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Valentines Winter Picnic-on-the-Street

## St Andrew's Current COVID Closure Status

**Parish Closed.** Either the Town of Kent and/or a majority of the surrounding towns is in red status on the [Connecticut COVID Data Tracker](#). Therefore *all worship services will be pre-recorded and made available on our YouTube account* at least an hour before they were scheduled to occur. In addition, *all other parish activities will either be suspended or move to online-only*; participants in those activities will be updated separately. The parish will remain in closed status until both Kent and a majority of the surrounding towns are less-than-red for two successive Thursdays.

## From Fr Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I'm going to try something new this week: a video message. You can view it [here](#). Please let me know what you think!

(If the video doesn't start at the beginning, just use your mouse or your finger to 'drag' the little button at the bottom back to the beginning. (Growing pains!))

In the peace and love of Christ,

Douglas+

[Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com)

860-592-0171 (rectory, and *also* rings on mobile)

## Weekly Schedule for 7 February

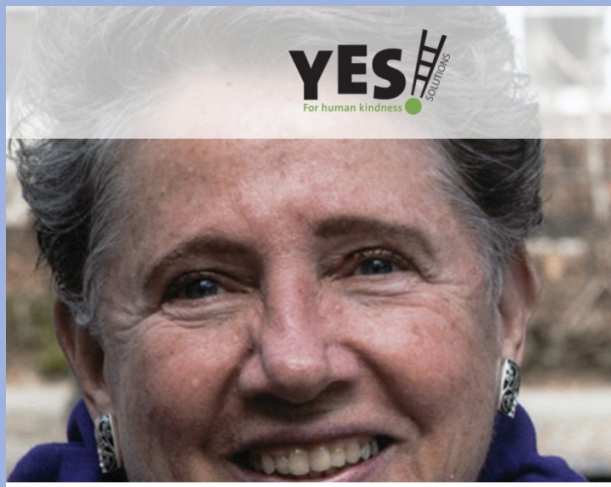
Sunday, 7 February

Holy Eucharist (*online*)

10:30 am

Tuesday, 9 February	Anti-Racism Study Group (online)	7:30 pm
Wednesday, 10 February	Mid-week Eucharist (online)	6:00 pm
Thursday, 11 February	Parish House open to drop off your eggs for Sr Mary	All day
Friday, 12 February	Parish House open to drop off your eggs for Sr Mary	8 - 10 am

## NEXT WEEK: Sister Mary Needs Our Help for Valentine's Day



As many of you will recall, every Valentine's Day, Sr Mary Lanning and her organization YES! Solutions put on a [Valentine's Day Picnic in the Street](#) for New York City's homeless population. For many years, we have had fun making up comfort bags for Mary to give to her guests. Unfortunately, this year, due to COVID protocols, she can distribute *only* bagged meals. So, the bad news is: We won't be baking or collecting toiletries or stuffing comfort bags this year. (She also cannot accept coats or blankets at this time.)

But now, the good news: Sister Mary has asked us to provide her 2,500 dyed hard-boiled eggs as part of the fare for this year's Picnic. Yes, that's right: *2,500 dyed eggs!!* Coloring the eggs make the meal more festive and bright for Sr Mary's guests, whose lives can be fairly bleak and monochromatic. So we are inviting anyone and everyone to get out their kettles and egg-dyeing dishes and get to it! And if you have the time to also *decorate* your dyed eggs ... with some words of kindness, a little gee-gaw or a pretty drawing ... that would be wonderful. [Here's a link](#) with dozens of egg decorating ideas if you're stuck.

Please prep your eggs within 3 days of the delivery date, which is Friday, February 12. We need all *undecorated* (but cooked) eggs by Thursday, February 11. The Parish Hall will be open for easy, COVID-safe drop-off. *Decorated* eggs can be dropped off any time Thursday or on Friday, between 8:00 – 10:00 AM. Father Douglas will drive the donations to NYC on Friday at

noon.

Another way to give is to donate cash for the purchase of \$10.00 gift cards to CVS, Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts. George-Ann Gowan is collecting the money/cards. Gift cards will be purchased on Wednesday, February 10, so be sure to connect with George-Ann before then.

If you have any questions or need any more information, please be in touch with George-Ann (860-946-9232), who will be happy to help.

## NEW FOR LENT: Lent Madness 2021

*From Marel Rogers, St Andrew's Lent Madness coordinatorextraordinaire:*

As January rounds the home stretch Lent begins to come into focus. I am looking forward to Lent Madness, the Lenten program with a sense of humor added to some serious study of 32 saints.



From the Lent Madness [website](http://www.lentmadness.org):

The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote (online) for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elite Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. Last year a group of us met each week to discuss the saints under consideration for that week. This year we can meet on Zoom and do the same thing. There are a number of "Saintly Scorecards"—a booklet with biographical information on the Saintly Contestants—which can be delivered right to your front door. Each of the participants can fill out the entire bracket ahead of time and submit it to be judged as each Saint progresses or moves aside. In the spirit of friendly competition, a prize (to be voted on by participants--food, drink, a car wash, a gardening chore) will be awarded to the one who predicted the winner of the Golden Halo.

As Lent Madness continues to grow and evolve, what won't change is the essence of Lent Madness: allowing people to get to know some amazing people who have come before us in the faith and reminding one another that there's no reason for a dreary Lenten discipline. If this helps people connect with each other and with the risen Christ during this season of penitence and renewal, and have a bit of fun in the process, then it continues to be worthwhile.

If you'd like to participate in this year's Lent Madness fun, please be in touch with Marel (860-364-0635 or [marelrogers@yahoo.com](mailto:marelrogers@yahoo.com)).

## NEW WORSHIP OFFERING: Live Morning Prayer on Sundays, Beginning in Lent

In order to avoid the 'gremlins' that sometimes terminate the live broadcast of our worship over the internet, in November, we moved to pre-recording all our services and uploading them to YouTube. We know, however, that for some parishioners, recorded worship is less meaningful. We also know that for some parishioners, spiritual communion—a service of Holy Eucharist without distribution of the consecrated bread and wine—is not a satisfying worship experience.

Therefore, beginning the first Sunday in Lent, 21 February, we will read the office of Morning Prayer, *live*, via Zoom, every Sunday morning at 8:00 am. This service will last about 30 minutes. (There will be a brief meditation, but no sermon.) We will then keep the Zoom session open for a while afterwards, so members can spend some time chatting with one another and with Fr Douglas, if they'd like.

More details will follow, but you will need a *Book of Common Prayer* for this service. If you do not have one, please contact Fr Douglas, and he will be happy to get one to you.

## NEW FORMATION OPPORTUNITY: Lenten Reading for 2021

In the Episcopal Church, it's traditional to offer a mid-week adult formation program during Lent. These often take the form of a supper followed by a speaker or a discussion, perhaps closing with Evening Prayer or Compline. Alas, that model isn't available to us this year.

Likewise, as I pondered the possibilities, I concluded that the *last* thing any of us needs is more screen time. An online class or discussion group ... or movies or YouTube videos or web sites ... are just *not* the thing for Lent 2021.

I have, however, found a wonderful new book by Russell Levenson, an Episcopal priest in Houston, Texas, called *A Path to Wholeness: A Lenten Companion*. I have just dipped into this short book, but I liked what I saw for each day: a short Bible verse, a brief, conversational meditation, an invitation to reflect on what this means for you and a brief prayer. Levenson's Lenten devotional is deep without being heavy. And to help us read it 'together,' in each weekly *E-pistle* during Lent I plan to have a different 'special guest star' (as they used to say) from the parish provide a short video about one of the week's readings that really spoke to her or him.

I hope you will consider buying a copy (available via the [House of Books](#), [Amazon](#) and the [Church Publishing website](#)) and pausing, each day, to spend a little bit of time learning, reflecting and praying ... as we journey toward the Cross and onward to the Empty Tomb.

## NOW AVAILABLE: Recording of Parish Annual Meeting

In case you missed it ... or just want to see it again (!) ... a video recording of the parish's Annual Meeting, which was held on 24 January, is now available. You can access it [here](#). You will need to enter the following passcode: !@BQU7=%.

## FROM THE NATIONAL CHURCH: Absalom Jones Offering



In honor of Black History Month and Blessed Absalom Jones, the first African American priest in The Episcopal Church, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has invited Episcopalians everywhere to deepen our participation in Christ's ministry of reconciliation by engaging with and supporting Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities, known as HBCUs.

Congregations and individuals are urged to dedicate the offering from their observance of the commemoration of Absalom Jones (February 13) to support the two Episcopal HBCUs: St Augustine's University in Raleigh, N.C., and Voorhees College in Denmark, S.C. "These schools bring educational, economic, and social opportunity to often resource-poor communities, and they offer many blessings into the life of the Episcopal Church," Bishop Curry said. Donations to the HBCUs will provide much needed help to offer competitive scholarships and financial aid, attract and retain exceptional faculty, support cutting-edge faculty research, install new and upgraded technology campus-wide, and provide state-of-the-art classroom and athletic equipment.

"In light of our renewed covenant and commitment to the work of racial justice and reconciliation, I hope you will join me in supporting the Absalom Jones Fund this year," the Presiding Bishop said.

Jones was an African American abolitionist and clergyman, and the first African American ordained a priest in The Episcopal Church. He was born enslaved to Abraham Wynkoop in 1746 in Delaware. Jones moved to Philadelphia after his master sold his plantation along with Absalom's mother and six siblings. Jones bought his wife Mary's freedom and later was granted his own emancipation in 1784. In 1787, with his friend Richard Allen, they founded the Free African Society, a mutual aid benevolent organization that was the first of its kind organized by and for Black people. Jones was ordained a priest on September 21, 1802, faithfully serving the African Episcopal Church of St Thomas in Philadelphia, which remains a vibrant congregation.

"As we commemorate Blessed Absalom Jones, the first African American priest in The Episcopal Church, we have a unique opportunity to celebrate his memory and to honor the witness of two schools that continue to form new leaders," Bishop Curry said. "In honor of Jones' commitment to advancing the education of African Americans and promoting the development of African American leaders in all areas of life, The Episcopal Church is delighted to designate Saint Augustine's University and Voorhees College as the beneficiaries of the 2021 Feast of Absalom Jones offerings."

Donations are accepted at [episcopalchurch.org/givehbcus](https://episcopalchurch.org/givehbcus). You can also text GIVEHBCU to 41444.

## FROM THE DIOCESE: Upcoming Forgiveness Workshop

Forgiveness Workshop for NW  
Region of ECCT

Saturday, February 6  
9:00-12:00PM

*Are you living with unspoken hurts?  
How deeply are they buried? How do  
they affect your relationships, both  
past and present? From whom do you  
seek forgiveness? And who is  
seeking forgiveness from you?*

**Join us on February 6th from 9-12  
noon to explore these possibilities in a  
Forgiveness Workshop facilitated by  
Dan Gates, LMFT.**

Forgiveness Workshops are an opportunity to explore questions such as these in a safe, supportive environment. Under the guidance of our skilled facilitator, participants can unburden themselves of past and present hurts and bring harmony to themselves.

The benefits of forgiveness include:



~ gaining insight and understanding into our wounds of abandonment, shame, or betrayal  
~ helping to heal our unresolved trauma

This workshop is offered by free-will donation, and is open to all!

To register, sign up by clicking [this link](#).

## AROUND THE AREA: Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunity

Housatonic Habitat for Humanity in the Danbury area is seeking **tradesmen** and “**advanced fixer-uppers**” to join our volunteer pool. We operate a maintenance and repair service for low-income households called “A Brush with Kindness” (ABWK). Volunteering with ABWK entails no ongoing commitment and is extremely flexible. Projects typically do not exceed several hours at a time and can often be scheduled according to the day of your availability. Our current volunteer base consists of homeowners with varying degrees of repair/maintenance experience but there is a real need for more experienced people to work with them or just provide direction. Often it could be your expertise, or a specialized tool, that would be required as opposed to actual labor. Our projects are maintenance and repair as opposed to construction or renovation ... so they are limited in scope and time commitment.

The way the program works is that you would be added to an email list of volunteers. As requirements come up we'll put out a blast describing it and asking who's available to participate. The towns we cover include Danbury, Brookfield, Bethel, Ridgefield, Newtown, New Fairfield and New Milford. If you are willing and available, you would reply, and then receive further details about the requirement. It's assumed that most volunteers would not be available or have the specific skills for any given project, so our objective is to have as large a pool as possible to draw from. Please note that ABWK adheres to COVID protocols and is largely on hiatus until the pandemic situation improves. The intent of this communication is to bolster our volunteer base in expectation of better times. Skills we're looking for include **carpentry, electrical, plumbing, roofing**, etc. We're looking not only for tradesmen but “advanced fixer-uppers”.

We are also looking for a **Weekend Volunteer Coordinator** (also a volunteer position) to coordinate post-COVID weekend work at one of our new home construction sites. Typically needed for one or two weekends a month with a team of volunteers doing less skilled tasks such as interior painting or landscaping.

If you would like to learn more about any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact the Rev. Jim Wheeler. To volunteer directly to be included in this program reply to [info@housatonichabitat.org](mailto:info@housatonichabitat.org) with your contact information and please include the types of skills (experience) you have.

Thank you,  
The Rev Jim Wheeler, Housatonic Habitat Volunteer Interfaith Coordinator  
203-525-3918 [jrwheeler53@gmail.com](mailto:jrwheeler53@gmail.com)

## Parish Office *Closed*

The parish office is temporarily closed, which means the phone isn't being answered. Father Douglas checks the voicemail once-a-day, usually around 9:00 am. If you have a more urgent need, please call him at 860-592-0171 or email him at [frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:frdouglas.sak@gmail.com).

## All Recovery Meetings *Suspended*

While the parish is temporarily closed, all recovery group (AA and AI Anon) meetings have been suspended. They will resume when we re-open

## Computer Help is Available



If you or someone you know is having difficulty accessing our online services, the weekly E-pistle or our web site ... or who would like to participate in our Zoom offerings but don't know how ... please let Fr Douglas or Heather know. We have parishioners who are willing to help you and also make sure your equipment and internet connection are working properly. We don't want anyone to miss an opportunity to be part of the life of St Andrew's!

## Kent Food Bank





Please help the parish continue our support of the Kent Food Bank

by sending a check in any amount to:

Kent Community Fund  
P.O. Box 262  
Kent, CT 06757

\*Remember to put Food Bank in the memo of your check.

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of our town's Social Services Director, Leah Pullaro.

The Kent Food Bank is also taking food donations during this difficult time.

The Kent Food Bank is especially in need of:

*Staples such as beans, rice, tea, coffee, sugar, nuts, hot & cold breakfast cereals, peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna*

Please remember that the Food Bank accepts pet foods as well!

Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past!

You may drop off food items on Thursdays from 9.00 to Noon  
*in the back of the Community House on Main Street.*

*Please DO NOT come into the Food Bank, but leave*

## Lections for this Week

### The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

*Year B*

Isaiah 40:21-31;  
Psalm 147:1-12,21c;  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23;  
Mark 1:29-39



## Past Services and Homilies

Please click on the link below in order to view past services on YouTube and to read homilies from previous Sundays located on our website.

[Homilies and Past Services](#)

## Worship Services

**-Sunday-**

**Holy Eucharist**

8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.

Rite I at 8.30, First Sundays;

Healing Service at 8.30,

Third Sunday

In person

for 25 people with masks at

8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.

(10.30 a.m. available live stream on YouTube)



**-Wednesday-**

**Holy Eucharist**

6.00 p.m.

(25 people with masks)

**-Friday-**

**Prayer & Meditation**

5.30 p.m.

(25 people with masks)

**-Holy Days-**

**Holy Eucharist**

6.00 p.m.

(25 people with masks)



## 12 Step Meetings

**Wednesdays**

A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.

*Zoom meeting  
email us for info.*

**Thursdays**

A.A. at 7.30 a.m.

(Great Room)

*suspended*

Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.

(Great Room)

*suspended*

**Fridays**

A.A. at 8 p.m.

(Great Room)

*temporarily until First Church opens*

*suspended*



## Parish Staff

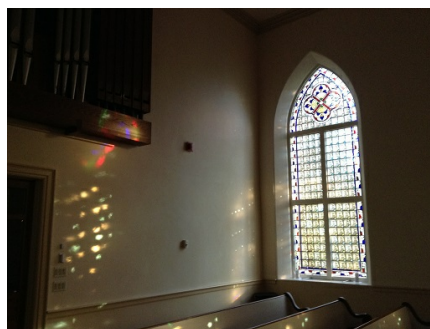
**The Rev Douglas S**

**Worthington,**

**Priest in Charge**

**[frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:frdouglas.sak@gmail.com)**

**860-592-0171**



**Thomas W Holcombe,**  
Organist & Director of Choirs

**Laura Filippi,**

Parish Administrator

**Joan I Cassel**  
Financial Secretary

**Bill McLaren,**  
Sexton

**Randy Osolin,**  
Verger



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Parish office open everyday except Friday from 9 am-6 pm  
(2 pm on Thursdays)

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The Episcopal Church in Connecticut  
[www.ctepiscopal.org](http://www.ctepiscopal.org)

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