

SEPTEMBER 2023

THE LION'S TALE

The Seasonal Magazine of St. Mark's, Mystic



BACK TO SCHOOL

THE FORUM HOUR

Fall 2023 (9am on Sundays)

The Lord's Prayer

We've all said The Lord's Prayer all our lives, so we tend over time not to hear the words we're praying. In these classes, we will look at multiple versions of the prayer that Jesus taught as a way to awaken it in us anew.

September 17 and 24; October 1, 8, and 15

October 22
Special Fellowship Event!

October 29
Annual Mealpacking Event!

Power & Politics: A Faithful Look

As we live into God's call to do justice and love kindness, we walk not just in the church but out in the community. These two classes will help us get on the same page when we're talking about the concepts of power and politics.

November 5 and 12

November 19
Bishop Laura's Visit! One Service at 9am followed by Reception!

Forgiveness

During our Advent forums we're going to explore the spiritual discipline of forgiveness.

November 26; December 3 and 10

December 17
Special Fellowship Event!

December 24 and 31
No Forum

EPISCOPAL 101

**Sundays at 11:30am
from September 10th
through October 15th**

Episcopal 101 is an introductory class about our church's expression of Christianity. While most helpful for adults new to our church, anyone can come to the class to learn more!

9/10: WHAT IS THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH?



9/17: HISTORY OF THE CHURCH



9/24: THE BIBLE



10/1: THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER



10/8: THE SACRAMENTS



10/15: YOUR BURNING QUESTIONS



EKKLESIA

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

Ekklesia Contemporary Ballet is a professional dance company comprised of artist-theologians whose goal is to create spaces where art and faith can flourish. Ekklesia's diverse repertory utilises a full spectrum of emotional and physical vocabulary while addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, and human suffering.



Experience Ekklesia
at St. Mark's on Sunday,
October 8th at 3:30pm

This Moving Dialogue Performance is an interactive performance experience that allows the audience to Watch, Engage, and Discover. Watch a choreographed dance, Engage in guided movement, and Discover the wisdom we hold in our bodies. This experience is accessible to all ages and abilities. Dance experience is not necessary, just the willingness to watch, engage, and discover as you feel led!

What's Happening this Fall with

Children & Youth

Beginning Sunday, September 10

Godly Play

PreK - Grade 5

Meets Sundays at 10:00am in the Education Wing

Youth Class

Grades 6 - 8

Meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday at 10:00am in the Education Wing*

Grades 9 - 12

Meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:00am in the Education Wing*

*On weeks where your child doesn't have class, we will invite them to participate, according to their interests, in worship and/or other Sunday morning activities.

Children's Choir

Kindergarten - Grade 5

Sundays at 11:30am in the Choir Room

Please register your child(ren) for the
2023/2024 program year here. Thank you!



Upcoming Special Events

For Children Ages PreK - Grade 5

October 1st at 4pm - Blessing of the (Stuffed) Animals

For Youth Grades 6 - 12

September - Glow in the Dark Bowling

October - Meal Packing for Gemma Moran Food Bank

Q&A with Faithe

Pastor Adam: Hi Faithe! I'm so excited for you to expand your role at St. Mark's to include ministry with children and youth. I've got a few questions to help our members get to know you better.

Faithe Emerich: I'm excited too! I can't wait for the new program year to start.

PA: You're not from Connecticut originally. What brought you to this area?

FE: I was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona. In 2006, my husband, Jeff, won the Baritone Saxophone position in the United States Coast Guard Band which is stationed in New London. I miss the open sky and expansive mountain ranges in Arizona, but I love the shoreline and the abundance of "green things" here in Connecticut. Connecticut is definitely my home now.

PA: What are you most looking forward to in working with our youth?

FE: I'm looking forward to getting to know each of the youth. I love witnessing the uniqueness of each young person. It's an amazing way to glimpse what God might be up to in the future!

PA: What is the biggest challenge you see in your expanded role?

FE: Hmm... I think the biggest challenge might be to make lasting connections between the young people and church. Some questions I'm asking myself are: How can we uncover the church's relevance for them personally? How can we do it both now and as they mature into young adults? I invite everyone at St. Mark's to explore these questions and their possible solutions with me! While this is certainly a challenge, my biggest aim is to facilitate a way for St. Mark's to walk with and support these young people as they grow into who God has made them to be—whether they decide to keep attending church as adults or not. What a privilege to be a part of their journey!



Faithe with her husband, Jeff, and two boys, Jaedon and Jacob on a trip to Maine this summer.

PA: Who is your favorite character in the Bible and why?

FE: It really depends! But at this moment, I pick Jonah. He always seems so grumpy! He says "no" to God, and then runs away from God. The part of the story everyone knows well is how he spent 3 days and nights in the belly of a whale and then was spit up onto the shore...ew! What cracks me up is that after he said "yes" to God and good things happened, he was still grumpy and decided to pout under a shrinking vine in the middle of the hot desert sun! I think Jonah reminds me that everyone is just human. Even the people in the Bible!

PA: What super power would you want and why?

FE: The ability to know the name, historical use, and medicinal benefit of any plant I see. Hmm... what would my super hero name be with such an odd super power?? Lol. I'm fascinated by all plants and especially those that grow wild and have flowers. I like to pretend I have this super power by using an app on my phone. Yay technology!

PA: Thank you so much for being part of our community here at St. Mark's!

FE: I'm honored :-)

BALLOON SUNDAY!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

Join us for our *Balloon Sunday* celebration between the 8:00am and 10:00am services this Sunday, September 10th, as we celebrate the new program year at St. Mark's!

BRUNCH BETWEEN SERVICES
GODLY PLAY BEGINS
YOUTH CLASSES BEGIN
EPISCOPAL 101 BEGINS
CHILDREN'S CHOIR BEGINS

UPCOMING...

SEPTEMBER 17TH: ADULT FORUM RESUMES
ADULT FORUM MEETS AT 9AM ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.

OCTOBER 15TH: THE CROP WALK
WALK TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHURCH WORLD SERVICES

OCTOBER 29TH: STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION
ANNUAL FOOD PACKING EVENT WITH THE UNITED WAY

NOVEMBER 19TH: BISHOP LAURA'S VISIT
WITH CONFIRMATIONS AND RECEPTIONS



THE LION'S TALE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

15 Pearl Street

Mystic, CT 06355

Return Service Requested

First Class Mail

VESTRY

Lynn Batcho

Maura D'Agostino

Mon Dickinson

Sue Glass

Arlene Johnson

Lynne Lawrence

Bill Merrill

Katy Roberts

Greg Steel

Jackie Stoltz

Dave Tura

Fred Zielger

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

The Rev. Adam Thomas, Rector

David Tubbs, Music Director

Faithé Emerich, Communications & Youth Ministry

Ted Kietzman, Senior Warden

Rob Christian, Junior Warden

Christian Cloutier, Clerk

Dave Cruthers, Treasurer



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