



www.standrewskentct.org * 860.927.3486 * st.andrew.kent@snet.net



Esther and Mordecai, by Aert de Gelder (1645 – 1727)

St Andrew's Current COVID Status

THE PARISH IS OPEN. At its meeting on 16 May, the vestry decided, in accordance with the May guidance from the CDC and at the recommendation of the priest-in-charge and the wardens, to more fully open the parish for worship. In light of revised guidance from the CDC and the current surge being caused by the Delta variant, our worship protocols have now been slightly updated as follows:

- **We are asking everyone to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.** The variant is highly transmissible, even by people who are fully vaccinated, and according to the CDC, Litchfield County's level of community transmission is now **Substantial** (or higher)
- **Congregational singing has now resumed**, at the 10:30 service only

In addition, it is no longer necessary to sign-up in advance to attend worship, but we will record the names of those who attend, in case contact tracing becomes necessary.

We will continue to livestream our 10:30 liturgy on Sundays and our mid-week services, as there are parishioners who are choosing not to be in group settings at this time—a decision the parish fully honors and supports.

From Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I hope you are doing well.

After a very restful and refreshing vacation, it was wonderful to be back with you all on Sunday ... and what a glorious Sunday it was: More than 60 of us gathered for lively worship and an amazing coffee hour this past week, on Welcome Home Sunday. The choir was back in full force; Tom composed a special introit for the occasion; and all of us even got to color with crayons in church! It was a wonderful way to begin the church year and, as I said in my announcements that day, to begin to live into a season of our life as a parish family that, we hope and pray, will be more COVID-*assimilated* and less COVID-*dominated*.

And my, how that life has been resurging and gaining momentum of late, beginning with our most successful **Tag Sale** in August. The **Music in the Nave Committee** has been meeting and has planned a year of events (see more below about the special cabaret on 09 October); the **Stewardship Commission** has been hard at work planning this year's season; our **Bible study group** continues to meet every other week, and our **racial reconciliation study group** and our **book study group** will resume in October; the **Properties Commission** has had a modestly eventful summer and is planning our annual **Fall Clean-up Day**; the **choir** is rehearsing each Saturday; and this Sunday, the **Vestry** resumes its normal cycle of monthly meetings.

Just as our stalwart **Visioning Team**, which has been meeting all spring and summer, is preparing its final recommendations for Vestry as to how St Andrew's may blossom and grow its ministries to those in the wider community ... our reconstituted **Music Commission** is now beginning to meet to dream about and plan for our music program following Tom's retirement next winter.

Several groups are looking for volunteers, as well. The choir always has a seat and a folder ready for anyone who wishes to make beautiful music with them. (Be in touch with Tom.) As we resume more and more of our accustomed worship practices, the **Altar Guild's** duties are increasing, and they'd welcome some new members. (Be in touch with Marel Rogers.) The **Hospitality Commission** has a full plate of events scheduled, and they are always looking for helpers, too. (Be in touch with Katherine Almquist.)

And there are some things that we're not quite ready to talk about yet but that you soon may be hearing more about, as we consider how we can better serve our neighbors here in Kent (especially families with young children) and those who may be coming to us from much farther away (see Presiding Bp Curry's message, below).

Phew, that's a lot! The Holy Spirit is definitely present and at work at St Andrew's, inspiring and animating us to resume some of usual routines; add dimension and depth to some others; and identify whole new ministries for us to try on. No one, of course, could (or should!) be involved in *all* of them, but I encourage you, as autumn arrives and COVID (hopefully) abates, to prayerfully consider how you might become more involved in our life as a family ... and then take your seat at the table!

Take good care, and may God continue to bless the work of the Kingdom you are doing.

In the peace and love of Christ,
Douglas+

Weekly Calendar

Friday, 24 September	Prayer & Meditation (<i>Nave</i>)	5:30 pm
Saturday, 25 September	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)	9:30 am
Saturday, 25 September	Music Commission Meeting (<i>Great Room</i>)	10:45 am
Sunday, 26 September	Holy Eucharist: Pentecost 18 (<i>in person only</i>)	8:30 am
Sunday, 26 September	Holy Eucharist: Pentecost 18 (with music) (<i>in person and live-streamed</i>)	10:30 am
Sunday, 26 September	Coffee Hour (<i>outdoors</i>)	11:35 am
Sunday, 26 September	Vestry Meeting (<i>Outdoors or Great Room</i>)	12:00 noon
Wednesday, 29 September	Stewardship Commission Meeting (<i>Great Room</i>)	10:00 am
Wednesday, 29 September	Holy Eucharist: Feast of St Michael and All Angels (<i>in person and live-streamed</i>)	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 29 September	Visioning Team (<i>Parish House</i>)	7:00 pm
Thursday, 30 September	A.A. for Women (<i>Zoom meeting; email us for info</i>)	7:00 pm
Thursday, 30 September	A.A. meeting (<i>Parish House</i>)	7:30 am
	Al-Anon (<i>Old Vestry Room</i>)	7:00 pm

Sunday, 03 October:
Blessing of the Animals

BLESSING of the ANIMALS



This year we will hold our annual Blessing of the Animals—traditionally associated with the Feast of St Francis of Assisi (04 October)—on Sunday, 03 October, immediately following the 10:30 Holy Eucharist. Pets and farm animals are an integral part of many of our lives: dear members of the family who provide joy, companionship and support. On this day, we give thanks to God for their presence in our lives, hallow our relationship with our pets and commit ourselves to loving and caring for them as an act of Christian discipleship.

We encourage you to bring any and all pets and other animals who are dear to you. We will, no doubt, have an assortment of dogs and cats ... but what a joy it would be to have a real Noah's Ark of birds, fish, rodents, reptiles and maybe even a horse or two!?!

As we did last year, we will 'pipe' the audio of the 10:30 service to the lawn, so that people and pets can fully participate in the Eucharist, if they wish. (Communion will be distributed outside as well as inside.) Or just come at 11:30 if you'd prefer.

Two other special opportunities for this day:

*Tom Holcombe will once again create a hymn for us to sing that **incorporates our pets' names**. If you have a name(s) you'd like to include, send a message to the Parish Office (st.andrew.kent@snet.net).

*We will also be collecting ***dog and cat food for donation to local shelters and rescue agencies***. Please be as generous as you can, to help those animals who have no humans to love them.

**Saturday, 09 October:
Music in the Nave Returns!**



St Andrew's Parish House
1 North Main St, Kent, CT

Presents

A Cabaret
with Rock Legend
Steve Katz
(The Blues Project, Blood Sweat & Tears, Lou Reed)



*Enjoy an Autumn Twilight
with Wine & Cheese, and Songs & Stories*
Saturday, October 9th at 5:00 PM
Admission \$10 - Under 18 FREE
Tickets at <https://bit.ly/SteveKatzCabaret> or at the door
www.standrewskentct.org/mitn.html ~ 860-927-3482

Some say life is a cabaret, others say it's blood, sweat and tears. Why not make it both? Enjoy an autumn twilight of wine and cheese while rock legend Steve Katz, founding member of Blood, Sweat & Tears and The Blues Project, entertains you with songs and stories.

This exciting event is coming Saturday, October 9th, 5:00 pm in the Parish House. Admission is only \$10 and free for those under 18.

You may purchase your tickets at <https://bit.ly/SteveKatzCabaret> or at the door. For more information, call 860-927-3482 or go to www.standrewskentct.org/mitn.html.

Please Sign up for Coffee Hour



After a spectacular extra-special Coffee Hour on Welcome Back Sunday, we will be settling into a pattern of less grand but every bit as convivial Coffee Hours every Sunday following the 10:30 Eucharist. (We will hold these outside as long as the weather cooperates.)

Many hands make light work, and our Hospitality Chair Katherine Almquist is looking for volunteers to help host. As she's sagely reminded us, "Please remember that it NOT A BRUNCH! (Think of Welcome Home Sunday as Super Bowl Sunday or Opening Night.) What we need on a weekly basis is the equivalent of a pick-up game or a table-read. Easy-peasy. Snacks and coffee."

If you are able to host a week, please be in touch with Katherine at kt_almquist@hotmail.com.

Episcopal Migration Ministries and Afghan Refugees: A Message from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry



As you well know, [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#) is one of the most direct and tangible ways that we embrace the invitation to become a Church that looks and acts like Jesus, by reaching out our hands in love to the dispossessed, displaced, exiled, and marginalized. For over four decades, in times of war, genocide, political persecution and upheaval, EMM has enabled the Church at all levels to welcome and care for God's beloved children, supporting them on their journey as new Americans, our neighbors.

At this moment in history, we face an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, an emergency relocation of our Afghan allies. Like the other eight official resettlement agencies of the United States, [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#) and its [network of 11 local affiliates](#) face critical challenges. In normal times, refugee resettlement is a process that is lengthy and planned well in advance. This current crisis instead meets the definition of a disaster: a sudden event that has overwhelmed the resources of the resettlement community to respond, requiring external and additional support.

The Most Rev Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate

[How you can help:](#)

Prayer. Refugee resettlement ministry includes professional staff, but also tens of thousands of volunteers, congregations, and community partners and stakeholders, who all come together to welcome and support our new neighbors. Click here for a [prayer list](#).

Volunteer support. To address the severe staffing shortages in the face of this crisis, EMM is in need of volunteer support, particularly those with experience in volunteer coordination, project management, and community organizing. experience If you are interested, please fill out this [interest form](#).

Financial support. In partnership with The Episcopal Church's Office of Development, EMM has created the Neighbors Welcome: Afghan Allies Fund, recognizing that considerable funding is needed to support the housing, medical, legal, and other basic needs of the Afghan families we will welcome. [Give online](#), by texting "EMMALLIES" to 41444, or via phone at 212.716.6002.

IRIS. Connecticut's Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) is also in need of support. [Learn how you can help online](#).

Sunday, 03 October: Choral Evensong at St John's, Washington

The Choir of St John's Parish in Washington, under the direction of their new organist and choirmaster Tom Brand, will sing Evensong on Sunday, 03 October, at 4:00 pm. Choral Evensong (Evening Prayer) is one of the most revered and beautiful services in the Anglican liturgical tradition. Consider attending if you are able. The church is at 68 Green Hill Road in Washington, Connecticut.

THE MISSIONS WE SUPPORT: Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services



Perhaps you would like to know more about the charities and agencies that St Andrew's helps fund? Perhaps you might even want to get involved with one of them? Well, we will be highlighting some of the charities and agencies that our parish supports via the Mission & Outreach Commission. This week, we feature Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services of Connecticut, a New Haven-based agency whose mission is to help refugees and other displaced people establish new lives, strengthen hope, and contribute to the vitality of

Connecticut's communities. Here is more from their website:

"Refugee families who arrive from overseas come to the U.S. with virtually no material possessions. They have lost homes, friends, family, country, culture, and jobs. Most do not speak any English. They have no income, and many are victims of trauma, with physical or mental health needs. As great as their initial needs are, their potential to enrich our community is even greater.

"Asylum seekers, asylees, and other immigrant families who seek assistance stabilizing their family situation often have many of the same needs as refugees coming from overseas. However, since they are already in the U.S., it is often the case that they have some limited resources or extended support network that can be built upon with the help of IRIS.

"IRIS provides targeted wrap-around services for all clients, using a strength-based assessment model, that offers long-term support for successful integration."

The services IRIS provides include basic needs (shelter and furnishings); case management (integration into the local community); health and wellness support; employment assistance; additional education; immigration legal services; education and youth services; English-language instruction; and services for undocumented neighbors.

To learn more about IRIS, you can [visit their website](#).

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 outside the door.

Lectons for this Week

The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Year B

Esther 7:1-6,9-10; 9:20-22

Psalm 124

Revelation 12:7-12

Mark 9:38-50



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

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



-Wednesday-

Holy Eucharist

6.00 p.m.

-Friday-

Prayer & Meditation

5.30 p.m.

-Holy Days-

Holy Eucharist

6.00 p.m.



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.
 (Parish House)

resumed

Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
 (Old Vestry Room)

resumed



Fridays
A.A. at 8 p.m.
(Great Room)

*temporarily until First Church opens
resumed*

Parish Staff

**The Rev Douglas S
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Priest in Charge**
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860-592-0171



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

**KC Compton,
Parish Administrator**

**Joan I Cassel
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**Bill McLaren,
Sexton**

**Randy Osolin,
Verger**



St Andrew's Church
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Parish office open everyday except Friday from 10 am- 5 pm
(2 pm on Thursdays)

Visit St Andrew's website at
www.standrewskentct.org

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