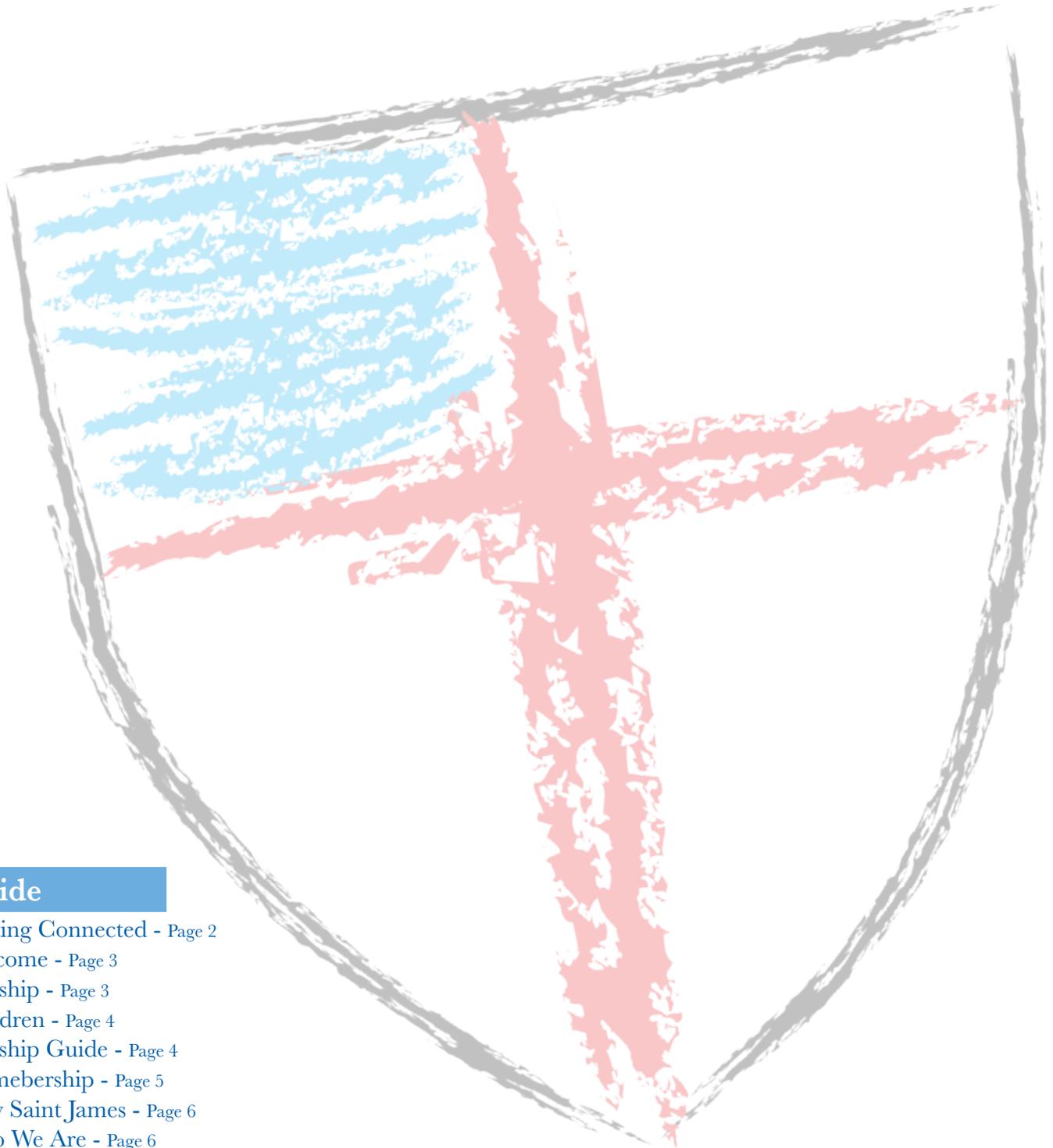


Newcomer's Guide

The Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew
Greenfield, Massachusetts



Inside

- Getting Connected - Page 2
- Welcome - Page 3
- Worship - Page 3
- Children - Page 4
- Worship Guide - Page 4
- Membership - Page 5
- Why Saint James - Page 6
- Who We Are - Page 6
- Getting Involved - Page 8
- Contact Us & Blessing - Page 8

Getting Connected

The Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew

(Also known as SsJA)

Website:

www.saintsjamesandandrew.org

Looking Ahead:

Our weekly worship leaflet includes details on upcoming events and programs. Pick one up at church on Sunday or view the announcements on our website.

“Connecting”:

Stay updated on upcoming events and life at SsJA with our twice monthly electronic *Newsletter*, the e*Pistle. Sign up by emailing the office at office@saintsjamesandadrew.org or download the latest issue on our website.

Facebook:

Like us at www.facebook.com/saintsjamesandandrew. SsJA has an active Facebook page, which includes recent pictures, reminders of upcoming events, and useful links.

Twitter:

Follow us at <https://twitter.com/saintsjimmyandy>. SsJA has an active Twitter account, which includes recent pictures, reminders of upcoming events, and useful links.

Sermons & Reflections from Rev. Heather:

Our Preachers regularly share their weekly sermons and reflects on our website:
www.saintsjamesandadrew.org/sermons

WELCOME

Welcome to SsJA! Whether you are passing through or looking for a church home, we invite you to explore this community. We at SsJA are eager to welcome you and look forward to an opportunity to meet you. Please fill out a Welcome Card, or give us a call or email to introduce yourself. And, check out these opportunities that are especially for Newcomers:

Festival Sundays

During the year we have Fall, Winter, and Spring Festival Sundays where we come together as a faith community for one combined service. Festival Sundays are a festival of worship, music, getting to know one another, food, fellowship, and fun.

Welcoming of New Members Liturgy

Each fall and spring at our Festival Sundays we welcome new members into our community of faith with a special liturgy, followed by a celebration.

Inquirers' Class

We offer a course every two years for those interested in learning more about the Christian faith and the Episcopal Church. This class is especially helpful for those who are considering being confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church.

WORSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 a.m. A quiet, reflective worship of Holy Eucharist in All Saints Chapel.

10:00 a.m. Our main worship, featuring modern liturgy, hymns and choral anthems by the Choir from May-October. From April-December we worship in the main church, and from January-March we worship in the winter sanctuary, our parish hall. Sunday School is offered at 9:30 a.m. from October-May.

COMBINED SERVICES

9 or 10:00 a.m. These services are announced in advance and are primarily for particular holy days, festival Sundays, summer services, and other special occasions that our community looks forward to each year.

Parking is available along the street on Federal, Church, and Franklin Streets, as well as in our parking lot. The parking lot is accessible by Saint James Court, off Church Street. If you are coming onto Church Street from Federal Street, Saint James Court and the Parish Hall will be on the right. Parking in the parking lot means accessing the building from the back area near the Parish Hall. To enter the Parish Hall, use the main rear door (handicapped accessible) adjacent to the church parking lot. To access the church or the chapel, walk to Church Street via Saint James Court and proceed toward Federal Street to the chapel entrance on Church Street or to the main front entryway facing Federal Street.

CHILDREN

Children in Worship

Children of all ages are always welcome and encouraged to attend any worship service. We seek to make it as meaningful an experience for them as possible, and we encourage their participation throughout the service. Learning about the liturgy helps establish lifelong habits that will help children develop a strong faith of their own. For a closer look, children are invited to sit on the cushions in front of the pews. We also invite little ones to explore our children's corner in the back of the church. There they will find drawing and coloring materials, quiet toys, books, a blanket to crawl on, and comfortable chairs. All children are welcome at God's Table. It is the choice of parents to allow children to receive bread and wine at communion, in what way and at what age. Children who do not receive may receive a blessing from the priest.

Sunday School

We offer Sunday School on Sunday mornings from October through May at 9:30 a.m. in the lower level of our Parish Hall where there is a story and lesson, followed by fun-filled activities to help kids relate the lessons to their daily lives. We provide a safe and loving environment for children to grow in and engage our enriching program. At approximately 10:30 a.m. the Sunday School joins the rest of the congregation for the second part of the worship service. Caregivers are always welcome to join their children in Sunday School. If you are interested in registering your child for Sunday School, please speak to a member of the clergy.

WORSHIP GUIDE

It is our pleasure to share our worship with you. We hope that you find God's peace, hope, and joy in our midst. Our worship is primarily drawn from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, and the 1982 Hymnal. We also supplement our worship with other liturgies, prayers, and hymns approved by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. At each worship service there is a comprehensive worship leaflet that contains everything you need to fully participate in worship. You are also always welcome to follow along in the prayer book and hymnal if that is your preference. Our hope is that these worship leaflets make it easier for newcomers to join in worship.

The first half of the service of Holy Eucharist is called "The Word of God". Readings are offered from the Bible, a sermon is preached, we offer prayers, and pass the peace. The second part of the service is "The Holy Communion". Here thanksgiving is offered, bread and wine are consecrated and then shared. Here at SsJA we welcome all people to God's Table to receive communion. Ushers will indicate when it is time to come forward. Please hold out your hands to receive the consecrated bread. You may consume this right away, then take a sip from the cup. Or, you may hold onto your bread and dip it into the cup. Receiving the host alone is sufficient, if you would prefer not to receive the consecrated wine. If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. Cross your hands over your chest, so the presiding minister will know to offer you a prayer of blessing.

MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to know more about becoming a member of SsJA, you may find these common questions and answers to be helpful to you:

Q: What does it mean to be a member of SsJA?

A: SsJA members are baptized Christians who are committed to help carry out the Church's mission of restoring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. SsJA is a welcoming community that strives to be inclusive, embraces and nurtures faith in God, and challenges its members to affirm that faith in action. Our mission priorities are to support children and their caregivers and to increase utilization of our beautiful campus. We ask members to commit to the three P's of membership: Presence, Participation, and Pledge.

Presence: We ask members to be present in worship regularly, where we will learn more about God as God is revealed in Jesus Christ.

Participation: We ask members to participate in the life of the community in worship, fellowship and service by using our God-given talents, gifts, and skills in Christian ministry.

Pledge: We ask members to make an annual pledge of financial giving for the benefit of the Kingdom of God through support of the mission and ministries of the parish.

Q: I've never belonged to any church before. How do I become a Christian and a member of SsJA?

A: Baptism marks the beginning of a new life in Christ. To become a member of any Episcopal Church, this is the first step. If you have never been baptized, we invite you to contact a member of the clergy to learn about the sacrament of Baptism, and how to become baptized. In addition to baptism, when you feel you are ready, you will be formally welcomed into SsJA community at our Welcoming of New Members liturgy that takes place at our Fall and Spring Festival Sundays.

Q: I've been baptized in a church other than SsJA. How do I become a member here?

A: It's very simple! Inform a member of the clergy that you wish to be made a member. We will invite you to formally join the SsJA community at our Welcoming of New Members liturgy that takes place at our Fall and Spring Festival Sundays. You will be recorded as a member of SsJA, and welcomed to participate in all programs and ministries. If your membership is recorded in another Episcopal parish, we will request that a letter of transfer be sent on your behalf.

WHY SsJA

There are many important factors to consider when choosing a church home: denomination, worship traditions, friendliness, and community involvement, just to name a few. As you consider whether SsJA is a place for you, here are a few distinctive things to note:

- **The Episcopal Church:** The Episcopal Church is a diverse and welcoming Christian tradition with a rich history and a lively engagement of the modern context.
- **Welcoming:** We are an inclusive, welcoming community that believes worship should engage people of all ages, and are committed to making worship meaningful for the whole church. No matter what your age or situation, there is a place for you.
- **Sunday School:** We have an excellent team of adults that care deeply for children and their caregivers, who seek to give children an outstanding spiritual formation experience that leaves children eager to come back again and again.
- **Outstanding Music:** We have two talented parish musicians and a dedicated choir that offer excellent music. The music enhances our worship and community, and provides opportunities for people to offer their talents for the glory of God.
- **Outreach:** SsJA is committed to serving those facing poverty and hardship. Our four largest community outreach programs are Second Helpings, a free community meal that takes place every Monday at 5:30pm; Bread of Life, an ecumenical ministry that provides meals on the weekends to shut-ins on the first Sunday of the month; Whitney's Pantry, a community pantry that provides free personal care items on the last Monday of the month at 4:30 pm, and St. Andrew's Guild, our neighbor to neighbor skill sharing program that hosts many events throughout the month.
- **Neighborhood Involvement:** We care deeply for our neighborhood and are always seeking to build stronger relationships with our neighbors, whether it's through partnering with neighboring businesses and social service agencies, sharing our spaces with the community, or facilitating parishioners volunteering at local schools, hospitals, and service agencies.
- **Active Community:** SsJA is more than just Sundays. Throughout the week, there are many ways to be involved in education, fellowship, and ministry.

WHO WE ARE

SsJA is an Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement in Greenfield, Massachusetts. We are a worshipping community of believers united in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to receive and share God's love, hope, joy, vitality, and vision as we serve others.

Our History

St. James and St. Andrew's existed as "sister churches" across the river from one another since the founding of St. Andrew's in 1921, St. James' having providing Episcopal worship and ministry in Franklin County since 1812. During our almost-century of relationship the parishes collaborated in various ways, including sharing clergy leadership in the early years after St. Andrew's founding and in the latter decades of the 20th century.

The changing landscape of church membership and ministry has impacted both congregations in recent years. Our increasing sense of clarity in our call to outreach and service in the Greenfield and Turners Falls communities coincides with decreasing resources available for those ministries in terms of membership numbers, participation, and financial support. In the fall of 2016 we began explicit conversation about the possibility of merger, understanding that combining the gifts, strengths, traditions and resources of the two congregations

(including human faithfulness, energy, and creativity as well as material and financial assets) had the potential to result in a faith community that is stronger and more dynamic than the sum of the parts.

As exploratory conversations took place, it was quickly evident to both the leadership and members of St. James and St. Andrew's that what we had to gain in merging our two parishes represented much more than we would lose in coming together. In March of 2017 the members and Vestries of both congregations voted to merge, situating the new parish in the Greenfield campus previously occupied by St. James, and putting the St. Andrew's property up for sale. Even as we acknowledge the deep loss that many have felt both in surrendering a beloved sanctuary and in letting go of familiar ways of doing things in the integration of the practices of the two congregations, we believe that God is at work in our midst; we feel a new sense of purpose, excitement, and enthusiasm as "things which had grown old are being made new".

History of Saint James Church

The Church of Saint James was organized in Greenfield, Massachusetts in the fall of 1812 by a small, but faithful group of Episcopalians that met in private homes. In May of 1813, they purchased the land that our church now sits upon and within a few days the cornerstone of the church was laid. They built a wooden church that served as their home for thirty-three years. The building became in desperate need of repairs, and they decided to sell their building to the Methodist Church just down the street. In its place, they built a new stone church that was consecrated in 1849. Over the years we have grown as a parish, which has allowed us to expand our campus and our ministries. We have a long history of engaging in the work of social justice, especially through ministries that address hunger in the greater community. In 2013, we celebrated our bicentennial and have begun a new and exciting time in our parish life as we look to the future.

History of St. Andrew's Church

Our forebears first began meeting for worship in their homes as early as 1872. A young priest, the Rev. George Burgess, was appointed county missionary in 1915. He felt the Turners Falls Episcopalians, who had worshipped in various temporary settings through the years, should begin a building fund. It was through his efforts that land at the corner of L and Seventh Streets was deeded to the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts by the Crocker Family of Fitchburg. The building of the new church involved considerable participation by members, with the men of the parish digging the foundation with their own shovels and pickaxes; on November 30, 1921, the Rev. Stockwell and the Rev. John B. Whiteman, Rector of St. James in Greenfield, conducted the first service in the new church, despite shavings that littered the floor. The church remained a mission of the Diocese for nearly 87 years, until May 13, 2008, when it became a full parish within the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. St. Andrew's remained a small and intimate community beloved by its members throughout the decades, characterized by involvement with and service in response to the needs of the Montague community.

The Episcopal Church

SsJA is a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts and a member of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America. The Episcopal Church is the American province of the Anglican Communion, a worldwide body of over 70 million Christians who trace their origins to the Church of England. Episcopalians are thinking Christians who engage questions of faith with both seriousness and great joy. Often, The Episcopal Church is called a "bridge church" between Roman Catholicism and other Protestant denominations. This is because much Episcopal theology is Protestant in nature, while much of Episcopal worship, spiritual practice, and church structure resemble Catholicism. As a result, individuals and families from a variety of backgrounds will find in the Episcopal Church a home that honors their own faith tradition while providing a new source of shared nourishment. Newcomers will find a diverse faith community that welcomes questions and discussion.

More information on these topics is available online at:

The Episcopal Church

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org>

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

<http://www.diocesewma.org>

GETTING INVOLVED

The best way to get more involved is to begin by visiting our website at www.saintsjamesandandrew.org. There we list the latest opportunities to serve and grow, whether it be in worship, in the parish, or in the wider community. The next step would be to schedule a time to meet with the a member of the clergy or a member of the Welcome Team to help get you connected to these service and growth opportunities.

GETTING AROUND

Restrooms

Restrooms are located through the door to the right of the altar. Go through the door, down the hall, and you will find the restrooms directly in front of you.

Coffee Hour

Please join us for coffee in the Parish Hall after 10 a.m. worship. To get to the Parish Hall, go through the door at the right of the altar, then down the hall, out the door, at the far end. Go into the next building and up the stairs to your left.

Campus Map

We hope the map included will help as you make your way across campus.

CONTACT US

The Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew

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(413) 773-3925

office@saintsjamesandandrew.org

www.saintsjamesandandrew.org

www.facebook.com/saintsjamesandandrew

www.twitter.com/saintsjimmyandy

Text “give” to (978) 525-0712

Meet the Team

Learn more about our clergy, staff, and team leaders on the bulletin board outside the office and on our website at: www.saintsjamesandandrew.org/meet-the-team

BLESSING

A sentiment by Henri Frederic Amiel that was adapted into a blessing said at most of our worship services.

My friends, life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us, so be quick to love and make haste to be kind. And rest assured that God is infinitely more concerned with the hope of our future than the sins of our past. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.