



TOGETHER

SAINT MICHAELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
210 Church Street
Naugatuck, CT



The Annual Giving Appeal
December 2020

“Together.”

We used to think we knew what that word meant.

We probably never even gave it a thought on how we might stretch its meaning or how clever we would need to be to make church happen together again.

But Oh My, hasn't 2020 tested us?

Amidst the chaos created by anxiety, and uncertainty, we sought joyful expression of our faith; especially when it became impossible to gather together in the ways we were used to.

We stretched, awkwardly at first, and then we created even more than we thought we could.

We groaned, reached, expanded. We rose to the occasion with online connections, prayer, and check-ins, to remind ourselves that we are loved and remembered. We experimented with Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube; some new processes were hits, and some not.

We learned new things, new ways, and we refused to give up.

- We now offer weekly 8:00 and 10:00 am. online services connecting us to God and with each other.
- We initiated a Saturday evening contemporary service.
- We adapted to remote communications and pastoral care.
- We dug deep into God's call to love our neighbors as ourselves through challenging and life-giving conversations and actions.
- We continued to attack hunger through NEON snacks, NEON meals, NEON family food programs, and the Thanksgiving Dinner. We executed a Village Green Fair, although in a different format.
- We provided meeting space (although socially distanced) to community social services groups and other worshipers.
- We upgraded audio-visual systems to live stream a new kind of worship until it is safe to return to the building,

Our togetherness may not have happened in the sanctuary, parish hall, wing, or Sunday school rooms, but it happened—and with joy. A joy mixed with gratitude, hope, and trust in our faithfulness and God's Grace and Mercy. Our church couldn't be prouder and better for it.

I cannot adequately express my gratitude for the work you all have done since the beginning of the pandemic. Together, we have (imperfectly) weathered the storm amidst turmoil and uncertainty. The changes of this year have NOT gotten the better of us, and St. Michael's stands poised to enter 2021 in better circumstances than we could have imagined in March 2020.

In all this, You have given generously to St. Michaels. Your support of God's mission through this community is truly a gift. I pray you will continue to faithfully and generously continue that good work God has already begun in you. So I ask for your continued assistance in 2021 again.

Next year St. Michael's will need to continue to work quickly to respond to the changing circumstances as we adapt and move forward in our ministries. We need to be agile and focused on living within our means.

Unsurprisingly, St. Michael's Annual Giving Appeal will be quite different than any other year. I bid you continue your present level of support in 2021 as I write to ask you to begin to discern and pray about how you might be able to support St. Michael's in 2021 further.

While there is no pledge card again this year, an appeal response is requested to plan our future. I know well that many other wonderful organizations also need your support in 2021. I also understand that every individual's circumstances are unique and that many may be challenged in ways they were not before the pandemic. Whatever your case, we are so grateful you are a part of our community, and I am asking for your help.

As a community seeking God's eternal changelessness amidst the chances and changes of life, we need your gifts, talents, hopes, and dreams. Will you please help us?

Paul Mathey and Birger Gabrielson are launching our most challenging campaign. They have created a new Appeals Card and presentations for your review. We are asking for the return of as many appeal cards as possible by January 1, 2021. We will have an online form available next week.

Friends, so much is different; so many circumstances have changed. But here's what I know: with God's help, the community of joy which we create, in person or spirit, is needed, now more than ever, and will be well worth the rejoicing.

I am praying for you. I am praying for us.
TOGETHER on the journey,

Jules+

A Note About Giving Envelopes and Online Giving

1. This week, we will mailout 2021 Giving Envelopes to all of you who currently use them.
2. We will hold in reserve, in the office, those envelopes of families who are currently giving on-line or by payment services through banks unless you specifically request them.
3. For those of you currently giving without the use of Envelopes – we will send out envelopes for your consideration and convenience.
4. In the very near future we will offer alternative methods to Giving Envelopes (Stay Tuned).
5. If you wish to start online giving please use our website payment portal in the upper left

hand corner of each page, see icon 

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