

## SUNDAY SERVICES SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID-19

# THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC

WEEK OF APRIL 19, 2020

THE REV. PIERCE W. KLEMMT



### A LETTER

Dear Friends,

Most of us trust God with our life, which is to say, we trust God to protect us, strengthen us, empower us, and sustain us. We trust God to keep the good times rolling and generally keep things rosy. The message the Church proclaims during the season of Easter revises these expectations. Resurrection begins by trusting God for something completely different. Paradoxically, Easter is about trusting God with your death. Yes, *your* death. Emily Dickinson begins one of her poems with this probing line: “We will die, but that is *all* we will do for death. Until then, I can trust my death to God as a way to enter the mystery of Easter.”

Another paradox Saint Paul makes clear, “We live because we are free to die.” We are free by God’s love to take death down to its own size and squeeze what’s left

of its fearful power out of our lives: “Oh death, where art thy sting?” Easter confronts our deep-seated fear and denial of the power of death; indeed, the reign of death, as well it should, with the declaration that the worst has already been known in our lives—the deaths we have known and the deaths of our normalcy we are dying now.

In some ways, the whole Christian life is a preparation for death’s undoing. It is a journey taken in the confidence of God to transcend it. It is the crafting of a life that can let go when the end comes because it has been completely lived, regardless of how long a life it has spanned. The one true freedom in life, is to come to terms with death, and as early as possible. Death knocks on our doors, tempting us to outwit, outflank, outmaneuver it. But the only way we die, and do only that for death, is to lead a life that is good for the whole human family. Lead a good one, full of curiosity, imagination, innovation, compassion, wisdom, and generosity so there will be no need, at the close of the day, to rage against the flickering of our final lights sending us gently into that good night. God holds us in our life as well as in our deaths. With each victory over death, God welcomes us home to Easter’s provenance where all true joys are to be found. The more we do God’s will, the least unfinished business we will leave behind when we die. Until then, eternal life is not a possession conferred at death...it is a present endowment.

The Rev. Pierce W. Klemmt

*Interim Rector*

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### PEOPLE COMPUTERS JESUS BIBLE STUDY

Good News! We’re now People Computers Jesus Bible Study (PCJBS) We are “meeting” Wednesday Mornings online. If you’re interested in participating, reach out to Cookie at [Cookie@stjamesp.org](mailto:Cookie@stjamesp.org) to learn how! This Bible Study is led by our St. James Youth Group!

We are sharing our “highs,” our “lows,” where we see God at work in our lives, thanksgivings, and our prayer requests. It is a joy to share with one another and to encourage each other with God’s love during this time of physical distance and uncertainty.

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### NEW TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

You’re invited to join us on Zoom for a Bible Study! The Episcopal Church is putting together the Good Book Club. As a denomination, we’ll be reading through the book of Matthew. You can find a full schedule for the daily readings and the login information for the Zoom sessions on our website: <https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/tuesday-night-bible-study/>. Whether you’re up to date on the readings or not, please join us at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays for Bible Study, lead by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham. on Zoom!

# ST. JAMES UPDATES

## SERVICES SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING

### ONLINE RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:

[www.stjamesp.org/covid19](http://www.stjamesp.org/covid19)

## GIVING ONLINE

To help make it easier to donate and support St. James Parish, we'd like to include this QR code that will take you directly to our general donation page or if you prefer, you can visit: <https://onrealm.org/StJamesParish/Give/DDZEPCJGHB>.

Thank you for your support!



## CONDOLENCES TO

The family and friends of June Bair.

Virginia (Bitty) Reich on the death of her husband, Tom.

## EASTER SERVICES AND THANK YOU!

We owe a huge thank you to our amazing clergy and organist who provided us with such meaningful worship services during Holy week. It was the next best thing to being inside our St. James sanctuary. Just so everyone knows, the Saturday Easter vigil was considered our prime Easter worship service. All services are still available to watch online via our St. James Parish YouTube Channel. You won't want to miss the Saturday Easter Vigil which begins by candlelight!



## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS ACCESS

The statewide shelter-in-place order is in effect. We are updating some of the practices for St. James Parish at this time. While our staff continues to work diligently, we are limiting the number of team members onsite. As such, we humbly request that any non-staff members regardless of key-holder status, please make an appointment to be granted access to the Sanctuary or any of the church's facilities. This will make it easier for Wes Clewis and his team of sextons to help us maintain a safe environment for all.

## ST. JAMES MISSION STATEMENT

To welcome all to grow in love of God and neighbor.

## SHARE YOUR JOYS WITH US

We want to remind everyone to find joy in the midst of anxiety. If you have a praise or a happy picture to share, please send it to Erin Becker at [communications@stjamesp.org](mailto:communications@stjamesp.org)! With your permission, we'd like to share your joyful moments with the community!

## MASK MINISTRY

One of our parishioners is building a mask-making ministry. She is using her sewing skills to make masks as fast as she can! These masks will be donated to the church and others in need. To help grow this ministry, we're inviting others who sew to join in! There are several great patterns and tutorials on YouTube.

If you are less crafty but would like to support this ministry, we are accepting donations of raw materials. Mask crafters will need quality quilting 100% cottons, elastic (1/4 or 3/8 inch), vacuum cleaner bags, etc (for layering). To coordinate a donation, please reach out to [cheryl@stjamesp.org](mailto:cheryl@stjamesp.org).

## BREAD BREAKERS IS GOING DIGITAL

*Sunday, April 19 | 8:00 p.m. | Zoom*

You're invited to join us on Zoom! Mebane Boyd will be with the Bread Breakers for two Sunday evenings to discuss caring for self, family, and children during these hard isolated times. Request the login info by RSVP-ing on MEET UP: <https://www.meetup.com/stjames/events/269962728/>

## MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES

*Monday-Friday During Quarantine | 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. | Zoom*

Our Weekday Morning Prayer continues through quarantine! We'd love to have you join us on weekday mornings at 8:00 am for Morning Prayer on our Zoom! Zoom is a video conferencing tool that allows us to hear and see one another. You can now find copies of the readings and the link to the Zoom Meeting on our website.

## ST. JAMES VISION STATEMENT

To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith.

## **ST. JAMES RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE CALLED**

We are very pleased to announce that the following members of our Parish were duly nominated, considered, and were prayed over. Further, they have each accepted their call to serve on the Rector Search Committee and will soon begin the work of locating and calling the next Rector of St. James Parish.

Here is our search Committee in Alphabetical order:

**Claude Bridger - Co-Chair**

**Reid Murchison - Co-Chair**

**Frank Gwathmey**

**Elizabeth Hinshaw**

**Susan Ingle**

**John Jordan**

**Connor Keller**

**Betsy McDonald**

**Sonja McFarland**

**Alex Murchison**

**Ann Parker**

**Sheila Osann**

**Ginny Woodruff**

The Lord was hard at work with both the Vestry and the overall body of the Church in assembling this group of outstanding individuals and I hope you will join us in praying for them and their work as long as they are joined together in their work:

### ***St. James Transition Prayer***

Almighty God, you know the needs of your church in every place: look graciously upon the people of St James Parish, and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we move through this time of transition. Thank you for the faithful stewards you have provided, and will provide, for our leadership. Give us discernment, wisdom, patience and confidence in your timing. Help us to care for each other with mutual trust, respect, kindness and clarity of purpose. You are the Good Shepherd, and we ask you to shepherd us throughout this journey. In the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen

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## **PARISH STAFF CONTINUE TO WORK**

At this time, our parish office remains open to a limited staff. Our staff is continuing to work to make sure our church family is supported during this time. The majority of our team will be working from home. We ask that no non-staff personnel visit the office at this time and if you have a need, please call instead. Our number is: 910-763-1628 or email us at [communications@stjamesp.org](mailto:communications@stjamesp.org).

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Families should be receiving Christian Formation emails on Sunday mornings that include talking points, activities, or a mixture depending on the age of your child. We are continuing to pray for your children and your families. Not being able to meet in person makes all of us sad, but hope that you and your children know that we all miss them and can not wait to see them again soon. If you are not receiving communications and would like to receive them, please let Shannon know at [christianformation@stjamesp.org](mailto:christianformation@stjamesp.org) and we will get you added to the list.

## **ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Registration for school year 2020-2021 is OPEN. Anyone interested in visiting and touring the Day School should contact Amy Taylor at [director.dayschool@stjamesp.org](mailto:director.dayschool@stjamesp.org). All registration is done through the St. James website, [www.stjamesp.org/registration](http://www.stjamesp.org/registration).

## **COMFORTING CALLS**

Our Clergy and Community of Hope Members aren't able to visit hospitals or many of the local assisted living facilities in person. They are making it a mission to call members of our church family to make sure they don't feel so alone. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please reach out to Cheryl Brainard at [cheryl@stjamesp.org](mailto:cheryl@stjamesp.org).

### **CONTACT UPDATES**

In our effort to touch base with members of our church family, we've noticed that some of our information is out of date. Please take a moment to log into your REALM account and make sure your information is accurate. Also, if you would like other members of our community to be able to see your contact information, please make sure to set your privacy to "Public." REALM's "public" refers to just our community at St. James and does not share your information with the internet as a whole. If you do not have a REALM account and would like one, please email Maria at [finance@stjamesp.org](mailto:finance@stjamesp.org).

## **LET US KNOW HOW TO PRAY FOR YOU!**

You can find our prayer request page by clicking PRAYER image on the homepage. Please let us know how to pray for you. Unfortunately, Clergy is not able to visit in the hospitals at this time so it is very helpful to us to be contacted when you are in need of support!

## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT**

*by Louise Sloan*

If I'm being honest, then I have to admit that, when first faced with the lifestyle changes that came along with the coronavirus, I was frustrated. Although there was some good such as having all three of our children home at one time, I initially was focused on the fear of the virus and the constant disappointments that came along with its dramatic impact on our daily lives. Weddings cancelled, plans with friends changed, and, most importantly, the reality that my high school senior's graduation ceremony would not take place as planned. It seemed like every day I was faced with a new loss or disappointment that something would be different than I had expected. Connection points such as church services, meetings, and even going to the gym were no longer allowed. Even the day-to-day routines such as going to the grocery store had a completely different feel.

Interestingly though, what started as a challenge now seems to be a gift. As we settled into a much slower paced and simpler lifestyle, much of the clutter of our typical everyday life was cleared away, and we were given time to reflect on what matters most. I found myself with the ability to be more intentional about how I spent my time each day. Like many, I have had a lot of wonderful, unexpected time with family. I have seen more of my neighbors and had time to call and catch up with old friends. I also have found myself more fully able to dive into the season of Lent with new spiritual practices and prayer and begin some of my temporarily forgotten New Years resolutions. I have gained new perspective as I watch so many struggle in so many ways both economically and health-wise and appreciate a few things I may have even recently taken for granted. Like some of the best gifts, this time is not something for which I ever would have asked but something that I realize that I really could use.

One day (hopefully soon), this time of isolation will end. The real question is what happens then? How do we hold on to new practices and perspectives as we get back to our "normal" life. We asked our kids the other night what the first thing they would do when the restrictions were lifted, and let's just say that their first responses did not involve more time with Mom and Dad! As we talked further though, we all agreed that there were many positives and that they had broadened their appreciation for many things. I feel much the same and want to make sure that I don't lose sight of some of the things I have enjoyed most in living in a simpler way. During what is hopefully just a few more weeks of time at home, maybe we all can spend some time thinking about what new habits, practices, and perspectives we will maintain. Hopefully, when "normal" life resumes and the next chapter begins, we, our community, and our world all are changed for the better.

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## **SILENT AUCTION 2020 UPDATE**

It is with great sadness that I share with you that our 2020 Spaghetti Supper and Silent Auction will be "postponed/cancelled" for May 3 to help arrest the transmission of Covid-19. This Youth Ministries Fundraiser has allowed our young people to help the people of Madison County by providing the money that we use for the building supplies (lumber, roofing, plumbing, etc) and for other outreach and mission opportunities. It is my hope that our Glory Ridge Mission Experience, June 14 - 20, 2020, will happen. We might have to work differently yet sharing time and worship "at The Ridge" changes lives and helps our world. If you would like to be one of our "Glory Ridge Stockholders" (the people who financially support our Glory Ridge Mission Experience) please know that this money will be used to help people who need us! Please make your check out to "St James" and put "Glory Ridge" on the memo line and send the check to St James: Attn Cookie 25 South Third Street Wilmington, NC 28401. Thank you for your support both financially and spiritually!

## **MORNINGS WITH MESSIAH IS ON YOUTUBE**

Join us on the St. James' YouTube page as the Rev. Cheryl Brainard leads us for Handel's Messiah and the Bible. This 9-part series focuses on the music and biblical texts from Handel's Messiah. Listening alerts and the full libretto can be downloaded from the site. Please contact Rev Cheryl Brainard if you have any questions at [cheryl@stjamesp.org](mailto:cheryl@stjamesp.org)

## **FILMING AND SHARING WORSHIP**

Ministry is still happening, it just looks a little different. We're working to digitize lessons, Bible studies, and, of course, Sunday mornings! If you would like to participate as a reader or help support our team as they work to keep everyone connected in worship, please reach out to Chris Hamby at [chris@stjamesp.org](mailto:chris@stjamesp.org).

## **HELP HUB FUNDRAISER**

With COVID-19, Help Hub is seeing a drastic increase in need. We're hosting the first-ever Great St. James Parking "Lot-ery" to raise funds for the Hub. All funds would be designated for the Help Hub. The prize is a reserved parking spot at the church for the fall. Find out more on our website.

## **YOUTH MINISTRIES 2020-2021**

During this time of “social distancing,” I have been doing a lot of pondering and creative thinking. As I share each Wednesday morning with our youth Bible Study via Zoom, I have listened and been amazed at their desire to know God more fully and to live authentic lives serving God. The questions that they ask, the “Highs and Lows” of their week and my favorite.... where/when each of them experienced the “Presence of God” during the week....all are holy moments of deep sharing and reflections of our living and loving God! Each day I am inspired to look to the future and to begin to shape our 2020 - 2021 St. James Youth Ministries..... Worship, youth group, Bible Studies, small groups, mission, outreach, creating opportunities for authentic relationships, adult mentors, fun, sabbath. Etc. I would love to hear your ideas, suggestions, and thoughts. If you have special memories from your own experiences within Youth Ministries or if you would like to become a part of the Adult Team to help create the next “chapter” of Youth Ministries at St. James, please contact Cookie at [cookie@stjamesp.org](mailto:cookie@stjamesp.org).

## **STAY CONNECTED WITH SJDS ONLINE**

Keep up with your friends with the help of social media!  
Facebook handle: [@stjamesdayschoolwilm](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesdayschoolwilm)  
Instagram handle: [@stjamesdayschool\\_wilm](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesdayschool_wilm)

## **GLORY RIDGE**

*June 14-20 | Glory Ridge Mission Trip*

Taking each day as it comes and understanding that we don't know what the future holds, St. James Youth Ministries is stepping gently into the future and is encouraging people to register for our Glory Ridge 2020 Mission Experience. We hope to send our 6th-12th graders and interested adults to Glory Ridge again this summer. If you are interested in learning more, please visit our website or reach out to Cookie Cantwell at [cookie@stjamesp.org](mailto:cookie@stjamesp.org).

## **SUMMER CAMPS 2020**

Here are the exciting themes and dates for this year's summer camps:

- Camp week 1: June 1-5: Transportation: Planes, Trains and Automobiles!
  - Camp week 2: June 22-26: Let's go on a Safari!
  - Camp week 3: July 20-24: Olympics
  - Camp week 4: August 10-14: Knights and Princesses
- Online registration are OPEN at [www.stjamesp.org/st-james-day-school-summer-camps/](http://www.stjamesp.org/st-james-day-school-summer-camps/).

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# NEXT WEEK AT

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# ST. JAMES PARISH

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## ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### MONDAY, APRIL 20 - FRIDAY, APRIL 24

MORNING PRAYER DURING QUARANTINE  
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom | Led by Jay Sidebotham

You can find the Morning Prayer linked on our website around 8:00 a.m. Please let Erin at [communications@stjamesp.org](mailto:communications@stjamesp.org) know and she will help you get access to the video.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 21

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY  
7:00 PM | Zoom | Led by Jay Sidebotham

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

PCJ BIBLE STUDY  
8:45 AM | Zoom | Led by our Youth Group and with Youth Advisor support

### SUNDAY, APRIL 26

MORNING WORSHIP

8:00 AM | YouTube | With a Sermon from Bishop Skirving

Sunday Morning Worship may be found several ways. The easiest will be through our email that will come on Saturday night. Simply click the image link to view the service.

You may also view it on our YouTube Page which is found at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxy1hvtSnsU84I\\_5nnbGUwg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxy1hvtSnsU84I_5nnbGUwg) or on our Facebook page which is found at, [www.facebook.com/stjamesp](http://www.facebook.com/stjamesp).

**EDITORIAL DEADLINES:** The deadline for the April 28th e-blast and May 3rd Grapevine is Friday, April 24th.

# ST. JAMES PARISH

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# ST. JAMES PARISH

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## STAFF

**Interim Rector** The Rev. Pierce Klemmt  
**Associate Rector** The Rev. Jay Sidebotham | **Assistant Rector** The Rev. Chris Hamby  
**Assistant Rector** The Rev. Cheryl Brainard | **Organist/Choirmaster** John Sullivan  
**Facilities Administrator** Bill McKenzie | **Parish Coordinator** Suzanne Adams  
**Finance Administrator** Maria Hollopeter  
**Youth Minister** Cookie Cantwell | **Children's Ministries** Shannon Lockamy  
**Day School Director** Amy Taylor | **Communications Director** Erin Becker  
**Registrar** Susan Ingle | **Property & Maintenance Manager** Wes Clewis  
**Sexton** Joey Dobson

## VESTRY

**Senior Warden** Steve Thomas | **Junior Warden** Florence Ellen Cowden  
**Treasurer** Mike Brown | **Clerk** Diane MacAskill  
**Class 2020** | Bill Bivins | Florence Ellen Cowden | Stuart Hardy | Ed Whitesides  
**Class 2021** | Watson Barnes | Pem Jenkins | Jane Martin | Jim Spruill  
**Class 2022** | Caroline Cone | Berta Hamilton | Brian McMerty | Steve Thomas

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