

**SUNDAY SERVICES OUTSIDE ONLY - LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE**

# THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC

WEEK OF OCTOBER 11, 2020

THE REV. PIERCE KLEMMT



## **ON PRAYING**

Would it cheer you to know that every weekday morning a subset of our congregation meets on zoom to pray for the people and mission of Saint James Parish? In fact, some participants come from other congregations, so the “whole cloud of witnesses” is represented - the Body of Christ. To know you were prayed for, many of you by name, should rest well in your soul, especially during this time of separation. If you are not able to pray, we are resolved to do it for you. It is not unreasonable to be thwarted from praying with so much dislocation.

A church in transition searching for a new rector experiencing separation in worship, fellowship and outreach is a parish needing the energy of prayer like never before.

Morning prayer, in our Book of Common Prayer, join the other “Offices” of Noon Day Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline, composing what we call “The Daily Office.” This makes sense when you realize that the term “office” originally meant a workplace, it meant work itself, work in pursuit of a valued goal, as for instance in the phrase, “I really appreciate your good offices in helping me to land this job.” But what happens when you find yourself reciting words in any of the offices of the day with no particular emotional anchor attached to them? Does it mean that your prayer is not genuine? Does it mean

you’re a fake, and that you are not really a spiritual person at all, just a person who wants to look spiritual?

I have known people who worry about this. Many of the more youthful memories about church for us are enshrined with the adornments of beauty, joy and the sense of protection. Ask any of our teens who travel to Glory Ridge or Trinity Center with Cookie and their sponsors and they will tell you prayers come easily and with urgency. Or ask the children in Amy Taylor’s preschool how with enthusiasm and delight they fold their hands and bow their heads. But dryness happens to everybody, including people everyone recognizes as deeply connected to God, you know, the saints. Yet the journals of our most devout saints are filled with chapters describing their wilderness in prayer. If you’re feeling guilty about prayer and wondering if you’ve lost your faith do not feel guilty. This happens frequently. It just means you’re human. Catch any us on the wrong day and we can be come apart over the simplest of things and we are off balance and behind. We are such a bag of feelings! Emotions are important but they are not the sum of us. Like in a marriage, emotions come and go. If you count on your emotions to certify the validity of your marriage, like prayer, you’re going to be in for a disappointing ride.

The practice of prayer as a habit can help with this. Prayer is not about how it makes you feel. It may not make you feel much of anything. Most times it’s just about showing up. Like the congregation within our parish on weekday mornings at 8. And don’t be discouraged. God is not going anywhere and neither is your prayer, which, after all, is a gift to you from God not a gift about you to God. Dry as a bone? Don’t worry. Relax. Just begin again. But above all never, never give up. Because the promise of health, hope and redemption of the world belong to the intercessors. This is the awesome power of prayer.

# ST. JAMES UPDATES

## DOWNTOWN SERVICES SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING

ONLINE RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:  
[www.stjamesp.org/](http://www.stjamesp.org/)

### IN OUR PRAYERS:

Jocelyn Lynch, Terry Turner

## AN UPDATE ON OUR RECTOR SEARCH

Last Sunday, Claude Bridger gave a brief update during the service. Just in case you missed it, we've made the replay video available on the Rector Search section of our website. In the meantime, here are a few key takeaways. The Parish Profile and all preliminary work has been completed. On Monday, September 28th, the application process through the Diocese officially opened for candidates. We will be accepting applications through November, according to the Diocese recommended time frame. From there, the Diocese will complete some initial vetting and send us a final list of candidates in early December so the interview process may begin. An outline and projected timeline of this interview process are included in the full replay on the website. We anticipate the calling of our new Rector to take place this spring with their first Sunday occurring in late spring or early summer.

## ST. JAMES MISSION STATEMENT

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

## SERVICE TIMES

Our in-person services take place outdoors at Mt. Lebanon Chapel. We are hosting two traditional services in the morning and a new service, Faith at 5, in the evening. During Faith at 5, we explore the different faces of worship together! We encourage everyone to come and share in the experience.

### SUNDAY:

8:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II

9:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Livestreamed)

5:00 p.m. - Faith at 5 - Holy Eucharist

## REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

*Sunday, November 1 | 8:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. | Mt. Lebanon*

At the morning services on Sunday, November 1 (All Saints' Sunday), we will remember the dearly departed as we toll the bell during the Prayers of the People. If you have someone from the past year whom you wish to remember, please call the church by Wednesday, October 28. The number for the church office is 910-763-1628. You may also fill out this online form on our website.

## GIVING ONLINE

To help make it easier to donate and support St. James Parish, you can visit: <https://onrealm.org/StJamesParish/-/give/pledge>

## ST. JAMES VISION STATEMENT

To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith.

## VESTRY NOMINATIONS

*Deadline to Submit Nominees October 23, 2020.*

Is there someone in our St. James community you admire whose leadership and vision would enliven the life, worship and governance of our parish? Who in your life here has touched you with their witness and commitment? Who has set an example of fulfilling the ministry of the laity? Have you yearned to help lead the Church in a new way?

The Vestry is composed of just such people, nominated and elected by fellow parishioners. The qualities we are looking for in Vestry members include:

- Leadership and a track record of service in one or more ministries;
- Commitment to the mission of St. James Parish... *To welcome all to grow in love of God and neighbor;*
- Participation as a pledging member of St. James Parish;
- And the willingness to accept God's call to serve.

If you know someone who fits this description, if you are yourself one of these special folks, please let the Nominating Committee know by completing the nomination form found on [www.stjamesp.org/vestry-nomination](http://www.stjamesp.org/vestry-nomination).

Serving as a member of the Vestry is one of the most rewarding challenges this Church can place before you. Thank you for helping to identify our future leaders and for opening the door for them to become part of an extraordinary group of people, brought together by God's will, lifted by prayer, and enlivened by purpose.

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT

by Linda Murchison

I share the blessing prayer below with you because when I came across it a few days ago, it touched my heart with its beautiful words to pray for ourselves, one another and the world. The sentence “may your work this day be your love made visible” caused me to be curious about how could everything I do be an opportunity to make love visible – whether chopping vegetables, folding laundry, writing an email or checking out at the grocery store. As you read this blessing notice what word or sentence catches your attention and speaks to your heart. Pause over this word or sentence for a few minutes, wonder about it, and let it sink into you. Give thanks for whatever touches you. Consider reading it again later in the day, or the next day, and again, pause over what touches you each time you read it.

## BLESSING PRAYER

What is a blessing but a rain of grace  
falling generously into the lives of those in need;  
and who among us is without need.

May the Spirit touch your spirit in a morning pause.  
May this day be a pathway strewn with blessings.  
May your work this day be your love made visible.  
May you breathe upon the wounds of those with whom you work.  
May you open yourself to God’s breathing.  
May you honor the flame of love that burns within you.  
May your voice this day be a voice of encouragement.  
May your life be an answer to someone’s prayer.  
May you own a grateful heart.  
May you have enough joy to give you hope,  
enough pain to make you wise.  
May there be no room in your heart for hatred.  
May you look into the window of your soul  
may you see the face of God.  
May the lamp of your life shine upon all you meet.

Marcina Weiderkehr, *Seven Sacred Pauses*, p. 85

## OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK

*Sunday, November 8, 2020 | 6:00 -7:30 p.m. | St. James Parish*

All are invited to join our Youth as they participate in our “Out of the Darkness” Walk on Sunday, November 8, 2020 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Our St. James Youth Community (6th - 12th Grades), Youth Advisors and other registered Walkers will be LIGHTING UP NOVEMBER 8 by placing LUMINARIES around the city block & walking laps around the block that encompasses the St. James Property. The hope is that YOU will get adult sponsors to pay a certain amount per lap that you walk. You will be walking for approximately 80 minutes..... 7 - 10 minutes/lap around the entire block.

Your “Sponsors” can pay you for each lap that you walk OR they can donate a certain amount for your entire walk. YOU & YOUR SPONSORS will be helping bring LIGHT into the DARKNESS of depression and suicide. Find out more information on the St. James website.

## PARTICIPATE IN OUR USHER MINISTRY

With our return to in-person worship, we find ourselves in need of more ushers to help us follow our COVID-19 protocol and to help direct parishioners and newcomers alike! If you are interested in serving as an usher, please reach out to Lee White at [lwhite@turnbulllumber.com](mailto:lwhite@turnbulllumber.com).

## THURSDAY FAITH DISCUSSIONS

*Thursday, October 15, 2020 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom*

Join a small group on Thursday evenings on Zoom! We start communally and break up into small groups. The current offerings available for small groups are:

- **The Way of Love-** This guide explores these words in the context of our life of faith and offers encouragement to begin or deepen spiritual practices to strengthen our journey with Jesus.
- **Renewal Works for Me-** RenewalWorks for Me is a personal guide for your spiritual journey. It begins with a brief “The Spiritual Life Inventory.” Each week, we’ll discuss where we are on our journey for spiritual growth.

Want to start another Faith Discussion group or become a leader for one of our existing Thursday night groups? It could be an actual Bible Study or another type faith discussion like parenting, marriage, or wherever the Spirit moves you. Or if you just have questions, please reach out to Cheryl at [Cheryl@stjamesp.org](mailto:Cheryl@stjamesp.org).

## TUESDAY STILL MATTERS

*Tuesdays | 8:35 a.m. | Zoom*

Join us on Tuesdays directly following Morning Prayer for a time of Bible Study and discussion of the Rev. Jay Sidebotham’s weekly blog, Monday Matters. Visit our website for more information.

<https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/tuesday-still-matters/>

**EDITORIAL DEADLINES:** The deadline for the October 20th e-blast is Friday, October 16th.

## **SAVE THE DATE: MEN'S DAY IN THE COUNTRY**

*Saturday, November 7 | 2:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Pleasant Oaks Plantation*

The men of St. James Parish are invited to Pleasant Oaks Plantation located at 3048 River Road SE, Winnabow, NC for a day of fellowship, fun, and dinner. Drop-in as you're able! We're excited to see you. Everyone is invited to bring one guest to join! There will be games, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, pig roast, bonfire, fellowship, and worship. This is an opportunity for all men (21 years and above) of St. James Parish to come together in a safe way outdoors at Pleasant Oaks. Keep an eye on future communications for more info.

## **QUIET REFLECTION- NOVEMBER EDITION**

*Saturday, November 7 | 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. | Mt. Lebanon Chapel*

Quiet Reflection at Lebanon Chapel will be offered on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 7:30 - 8:30 AM. We had glorious time on Oct. 3. The birds and piano music that accompanied the silence were beautiful. You are welcome to join us for as much, or as little, of this hour as you can. You may sit in a pew, or on a garden bench, or enjoy a meditative walk around the Chapel. Our time together will be in silence. Questions-please email Lindamurchison65@gmail.com.

## **MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES**

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

Our Weekday Morning Prayer continues! Join us on weekday mornings at 8:00 am for Morning Prayer on our Zoom. You can now find copies of the readings and the link to the Zoom Meeting on our website.

## **WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: THE PATH**

*Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020 | 11:00 a.m. | Zoom or in the Great Hall (masks required for in-person gathering)*

Join us as we read through *The Path*. We'll walk in the footsteps of faithful men and women who have done their best to follow God's call. *The Path* is the story of the Bible, excerpted from the New Revised Standard Version so that it is clear and easy to read. Follow the path of God's love all the way from the beginning to the end, from Adam's creation to John's revelation.

## **LINK /RE-LINK YOUR HARRIS TEETER VIC CARD:**

Help SJDS by linking or re-linking your Harris Teeter VIC card to our school! Each year SJDS gets funding from HT for the number of cards linked, and a portion of proceeds from the sale of HT brand items. The code for SJDS if 5264-the folks at the customer service desk can help you with this! Many thanks!

## **KEEPING CONNECTED**

For the past 6 months a group of dedicated volunteers have been making calls to parishioners, checking on their needs and verifying that the information in the parish directory is correct. Sometimes, a phone number is disconnected or an email bounces back. Please make sure we have your current information on file. You can also check with the parish office, 910-763-1628.

If you received a voicemail from a volunteer, be a dear and return the call. We do want to know how you are faring!

We occasionally receive returned mail due to an outdated address. If the office determines you cannot be located, mailings will be discontinued until you contact us.

Please keep us up to date on your moves!

## **YOUTH GATHERING**

*Sundays | 6:00 p.m. | Meet at Mt. Lebanon Chapel*

All 6th - 12th graders are encouraged to gather at Mt. Lebanon Chapel after the "Faith at Five" Worship Service. If you cannot come to this worship experience, please join us at 6:00 pm for a Youth Group Gathering to learn more about how we will be gathering as a "Youth Community" while we are in this phase of Covid - 19. Our goals are to stay safe and to allow God to create an environment where a community of faith, fun, outreach and service can be experienced and shared. Questions? Contact Cookie Cantwell, cookie@stjamesp.org, or call or text 910-264-5910

## **PEOPLE COMPUTERS JESUS BIBLE STUDY**

*Wednesday | 8:45 a.m. | Zoom*

Join us for 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 to learn how! This Bible Study is led by our St. James Youth Group! Now starting at 8:45 a.m.

## **FAMILY PACKETS AVAILABLE AT MT. LEBANON CHAPEL**

Children's worship/faith formation materials will be made available to families onsite at Mt. Lebanon Chapel. If you have any questions, please let Shannon know at christianformation@stjamesp.org.

## **LETTER WRITERS WANTED**

During this time of social distancing, the Care Guild is unable to visit parishioners who are homebound or reside in care facilities. You can imagine how these residents look forward to receiving mail! If you are interested in helping us bring joy to some of our community members by writing a letter or two, please email Beth Souther at bethsoutherfish@gmail.com.

# ST. JAMES PARISH

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## NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH

### MONDAY- FRIDAY, OCT. 12-16

MORNING PRAYER DURING QUARANTINE  
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom | Led by Cheryl Brainard

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

TUESDAY STILL MATTERS  
8:35 AM | Zoom

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

PRAYERS OF LAMENT AND REPENTENCE  
9:00 AM | Wilmington City Hall Steps

### PCJ BIBLE STUDY

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

### THE PATH BIBLE STUDY

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Zoom & The Lippitt Room

### EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

6:00-8:30 PM | Zoom

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

#### THE WAY OF LOVE

7:00 PM | Zoom | Thursday Faith Discussions

#### RENEWAL WORKS FOR ME

7:00 PM | Zoom | Thursday Faith Discussions

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

#### HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

8:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel | BYOS\*

#### HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

9:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel & ONLINE | BYOS\*

#### FAITH AT 5 - EXPERIENCE WORSHIP

5:00 PM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel | BYOS\*

#### YOUTH GROUP

6:00 PM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel | BYOS\*

**\*BYOS:** Bring Your Own Supplies- Please bring your own masks, chairs, picnic blankets, etc.