

SUNDAY SERVICES OUTSIDE ONLY - LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

THE REV. CHRIS HAMBY



GENTLENESS

“Don’t be too quick to assume your enemy is a savage just because he is your enemy. Perhaps he is your enemy because he thinks you are a savage. Or perhaps he is afraid of you because he feels that you are afraid of him. And perhaps if he believed you were capable of loving him he would not be your enemy. Do not be too quick to assume that your enemy is an enemy of God just because he is your enemy. Perhaps he is your enemy precisely because he can find nothing in you that gives glory to God. Perhaps he fears you because he can find nothing in you of God’s love and God’s kindness and God’s patience and mercy and understanding of the weaknesses of men.”

- Thomas Merton, New Seeds of Contemplation -

+Cut out and save.

As we enter a fragile time in our lives in the midst of fires, hurricanes, charged political climate, and a pandemic just remember to be gentle with one another. We are all beloved children of God. However much you disagree with someone else, they are, like you, beloved.

Take this quote from Thomas Merton and cut it out in order to place it somewhere you will see it every day. We are quick to assume the worst in people. Every action is seen with ill intention. Thomas Merton asks us to respect everyone we meet. Consider what someone is saying and properly respond without reaction. Attacking, blaming, or shaming is not helpful. This does not mean you are acquiescing to their ideas, but you are instead attempting to understand their perspective. Understanding another idea is imperative to converse with reason even if you continue in disagreement.

When we disagree we need to remember to disagree with love. We learn and listen. We disagree with those we love all the time, yet we can still listen. If we see the reflection of Christ in everyone we can begin to understand in the midst of disagreement. Seeking a shared understanding means we are listening deeply to what is being said. We are listening to ideas and issues. We discuss ideas and issues as we avoid ad hominem attacks as those are distractions from active engagement and listening. We might not know everything about the topic at hand so we must be humble in our understanding, experience, and expertise.

Thomas Merton implores us to look deeper and actually converse, listen, engage, and understand. Remember the words of Thomas Merton and remember we are all beloved children of God.

ST. JAMES UPDATES

DOWNTOWN SERVICES SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING

ONLINE RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:
www.stjamesp.org/

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Stuart Egerton, John Furniss, Charles Hocking, Terry Turner

CONDOLENCES:

The family and friends of Billie Rose Britt Petrou Elizabeth Harriss Dunn, Annie Gray Sprunt, David Harriss Sprunt, and their families on the death of Elizabeth (Beth) Harriss Sprunt

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Kit Mason on the birth of her grandson, John Joseph Mathers

Sarah and Turner Schaeffer on the birth of their daughter, Evelyn "Evie" Joan Schaeffer.

Anne and Mitty Schaeffer are the happy grandparents.

GIVING ONLINE

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

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.

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.

NEW SERVICE TIMES

Our in-person services will 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

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

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.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT

by Watson Barnes

It was really awesome to be back at Lebanon Chapel this past Sunday. It was a beautiful Fall morning, and the Lebanon grounds looked outstanding. I enjoyed seeing old friends and having the chance to speak with some newcomers. Although I had to speak to them across the short distance between our circles, it was nevertheless a great chat!

I took a walk over to the All Saints' garden and marveled at how great it looked and how well it has been maintained. As an added bonus to the morning, later on I ran into a couple I had not seen at church in a year or more. It was great to find them doing well and still a part of the St. James community. I realized how much I have missed seeing people and interacting face-to-face at church.

Feeling a little inspired after all of this, I listened to Chris Hamby's sermon again online. His preaching and the Gospel reading really spoke to me. Chris referenced the parable of the Prodigal Son, who squandered everything, but was welcomed back with open arms. Now, I don't think I've squandered my faith entirely over the last few months, but let's say there have been times in my life when my faith has been stronger. Despite my shortcomings as a struggling Christian, I know God welcomed me back to Lebanon today with arms wide open. In Chris's words, "there is no partiality in God's kingdom", and His grace is meant for everyone.

Looking back over the last six months, it is hard not to dwell on the challenges we have faced on so many fronts. However, my Sunday experience confirmed that we can be filled with hope, and that we have much to be thankful for. From Peter 5:10: *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*

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/>

THE WAY OF LOVE

Thursday, October 1, 2020 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

Join a small group on Thursday evenings on Zoom as we look at this Practical Guide to Following Jesus. As followers of Christ, we are called to live in ways that draw us ever closer to our Savior. To follow Jesus is to make extraordinary commitments: To love God with our whole being and to love others as Jesus has loved us. One path to the Way of Love is through seven key actions: Turn. Learn. Pray. Worship. Bless. Go. Rest. This practical 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. Written by Scott Gunn, an Episcopal priest and executive director of Forward Movement. Contact Cheryl at cheryl@stjamesp.org to sign up or to order the book

ST. JAMES MISSION STATEMENT

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

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.

PEOPLE COMPUTERS JESUS BIBLE STUDY

Monday-Friday | 8:00 - 8:30 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 8:45a.m.

QUIET REFLECTION

Saturday, October 3 | 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

Quiet Reflection at Lebanon Chapel will be offered on Saturday, Oct 3 from 7:30 - 8:30 AM. 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.

ST. JAMES VISION STATEMENT

To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith.

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the October 6th e-blast is Friday, October 2nd.

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 is 5264-the folks at the customer service desk can help you with this! Many thanks!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY COMING IN OCTOBER

Starting Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020 | 11:00 a.m. | Zoom or in the Lippit Room (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.

With informative trail signs to help you see how each piece of the narrative fits together, *The Path* is an experience unlike any other: an amazing 360-degree overview of the vast, sweeping story of God's extraordinary love for ordinary people. Join us on this epic adventure, a journey through the Bible to grow closer to God.

The Path has received a bronze medal in the Bible Study category of The Illumination Awards.

MEET ON ZOOM: RENEWALWORKS FOR ME

Thursdays | 7:00 P.M. | Zoom

All who are participating in RenewalWorks for Me are invited to join a weekly Zoom group meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Even if you haven't read or haven't started RenewalWorks For Me yet, come join us and see what it's all about! Find information about the Zoom on our website. If you would like to be emailed the link to join each Thursday, please reach out to Erin at communications@stjamesp.org.

WHAT IS FAITH AT 5?

Sundays | 5:00 p.m. | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

Come join us at Lebanon Chapel, as the youth guide us through this wonderful Sunday evening worship service with Eucharist. All are welcome.....those who are young, and those who are young at heart. We will be enjoying music known to most people, sharing amazing liturgies and praying together as a community of faith. Our worship will begin 5 o'clock so plan to arrive a bit earlier. Please wear your masks. Bring chairs or a blanket for your family to sit on. You may want to bring snacks for your children! To gather safely and to see one another will add joy to this worship experience! Please join us!

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!

SACRED GROUND

Each Tuesday night, a group of more than 30 parishioners have met on Zoom to discuss matters of race and what impact we can have on our community. Our 10 week journey is getting ready to draw to a close. We would like to invite anyone who would be interested in joining us to participate in the next round of Sacred Ground. If you are interested, please email Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org.

VOLUNTEER WITH THE MT. LEBANON CHAPEL MINISTRY

The Mt. Lebanon Chapel volunteer group is ramping up. If you would like to get involved with this ministry, please contact Tom Hackler at 910-471-5075.

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.

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. She will assist you with next steps and help you choose a Letter Buddy or two.

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 S. Third Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

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NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH

MONDAY, SEPT. 28 - FRIDAY, OCT. 2

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

TUESDAY STILL MATTERS
8:35 AM | Zoom

SACRED GROUND: OF FAITH AND RACE
7:00 PM | Zoom

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

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

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
6:00-8:30 PM | Zoom

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

THE WAY OF LOVE
7:00 PM | Zoom | Fellowship Style Start

RENEWAL WORKS FOR ME
7:00 PM | Zoom | Fellowship Style Start

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

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.