



St. James seeks to be a community that grows more Christlike, expressing the love of Jesus Christ in our worship, our outreach, and our commitment to discipleship.

ST. JAMES MESSENGER

“Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11)



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS @ ST. JAMES

ECW Christmas Luncheon
Tuesday, December 6th @ 11:00 a.m.

Children’s Presentation: “Stop, Look, Listen”
Wednesday, December 7th @ 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

St. James Choir Presentation: “Love’s Pure Light”
Sunday, December 18th @ 4:00 p.m. in the Church

Both presentations will be livestreamed.

Christmas Eve Services
Saturday, December 24th @ 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
(Pre-Service Music at 4:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.)

Our **5:00 p.m. Family Service** will feature selections from our children’s choir, and decorating the creche.

Our **9:00 p.m. Traditional Service** will feature selections from our adult choir.

Christmas Day Service
Sunday, December 25th @ 10:15 a.m.
(One Sunday morning service)

DECEMBER 2022

The Messenger is a monthly publication of St. James' Episcopal Church in Leesburg, Florida. It is mailed on the last Wednesday of each month and highlights parish news for the upcoming month. Deadline for submissions is the third Wednesday of each month. Submissions should be sent to: Pat Schaefer <office@stjames-leesburg.org>

Church Mailing Address:
St. James Episcopal Church
204 N. Lee Street
Leesburg, FL 34748
Services: Sunday 8:00AM & 10:15 AM
Thursday Healing Service 10:00AM
Office Phone: (352) 787-1981
Office Fax: (352) 787-1021
Office Email: office@stjames-leesburg.org
Fr. Trees' email: frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org
Fr. Trees' cell: (352) 643-1182
Visit our website at: www.stjames-leesburg.org



Sunday services are livestreamed at 10:15 AM:
Go to YouTube and type "Leesburg Stjames" or
visit our **Facebook** page.

CHURCH VESTRY & STAFF

Rector: Rev'd Thomas Trees
Assisting Priests: Rev'd. William J. Boyer, Rev'd Ron Peak
Assisting Deacon: Rev'd Art Hollows
Parish Organist/Choir Director: Deb Carraway
Nursery Coordinator: Carmen Rebusmen
Children's Choir Director: Elizabeth Williams
Treasurer: Linda Weekley
Parish / Finance Secretary: Pat Schaefer
Sexton: Doug Ames
Housekeeping: Diane Smith
Vestry Members: Bill Cauthen, Marc Crouch, Kathy Davidson,
Danny Delgado (Senior Warden), Harry Hackney, David
Knowles, Chris Leware, Drew Logan (Junior Warden), Mackie
McCabe, Bob Tindall, Linda Weekley, Patti Wolf

LIBRARY CORNER

Six Little Stories with Lots of Meanings

- 1) Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. ***That is Faith.***
- 2) When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. ***That is Trust.***
- 3) Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but we still set the alarms to wake up. ***That is Hope.***
- 4) We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. ***That is Confidence.***
- 5) We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. ***That is Love.***
- 6) On an old man's shirt was written a sentence. "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." ***That is Attitude.***

Have a happy day and live your life like these 6 stories. Remember— Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace.

'Food for thought'. I received and read the above on a friend's Facebook posting, but I know where you can find other inspiring thoughts to reflect on and enlighten your life without turning on the computer. It's old-fashioned, but it's easy - just open a good book!

Fortunately, we have plenty of those in our Parish Library. Stop by, get acquainted with books collected for your joy and edification, right here at St. James. Meanwhile, we are preparing book displays for the parish hall book trucks for the wonderful seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. 'We' are Margaret and Linda, Parish Librarians, Rm. 6.

WORSHIP IN MOTION

Thank you to all who have expressed interest in Worship in Motion! We will not be meeting during the month of December, but will resume again in January. I am very much looking forward to our time together in worship! Stay tuned! -Beth Williams

NEED TO MEET WITH FR. TOM?

If you would like to know when you can come by the church to meet with Fr. Tom, he will be available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to noon, and Thursdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.. If you would like to arrange for other times to meet, you can contact him by phone or text at (352) 643-1182, or by email at frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org.

St. James Prayer List

Call the Church Office (352)787-1981 with additions/deletions

LONG TERM

Judy Cable
Joyce Huey
Beryl Stokes
Dottie Elliott
Charles Hay
Kathy Billington
Nancy Mitchell
Lauri Grizzard
Stephen Norris
Charles Stephens
Meg Johnson
Larry Bonofiglio
Linda Grizzard
Mike McCann
Greg Hickman
Gordon Roeglin
Craig

SHORT TERM

(3 weeks).

Shirley Fiebke
Jean Hogan
Deb Ballabio
Alana Goodman

IN MEMORIAM

We offer our condolences to the family and loved ones of **Anne Disch**, who passed away on November 23rd, and **Margaret Green-Witt**, who passed away on November 27th.

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
And my light perpetual shine upon them.
Amen.*

GRIEF SUPPORT

The Grief Support Gathering will meet **Thursday, December 1st, at 4:00 PM at the Coffee Snob** (1101-1 W. North Blvd, Leesburg). The topic will be, "Grief and Loss During the Holidays".

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP

St. James has a support group for those who are dealing with, or have dealt with family members suffering from dementia. This group meets on the **Fourth Wednesday of each month at 2:00PM in the Parish Hall**. The next meeting which will take place on **Wednesday, December 28th**. If you, or anyone you know are dealing with these challenges and are interested in participating please call Dot Hay (352-552-8986) or the Parish Office at (352-787-1981).

A STEWARDSHIP THANK YOU



*"Walk in a manner worthy of God,
who calls you into his kingdom and glory"
1st Thessalonians 2:12*



We had a wonderful Stewardship Sunday and Ministry Fair on November 13th, as we focused on our call to take **"Steps Towards God's Kingdom."** We'd like to thank all of you who made your financial commitment to St. James in 2023. If you would still like to make a pledge, you can send in your card, or contact the church at office@stjames-leesburg.org, or 352-787-1981.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

We invite you to follow up on our **Focus on the Future** meetings by signing up for one of our five new "Focus Committees". They cover the areas of: 1) Outreach, 2) Pastoral Care, 3) Fellowship, 4) Spiritual Formation, and finally, 5) Newcomers. The Newcomer Committee will use a program called "Invite-Welcome-Connect", and will host a weekend event on implementing it in 2023. Marc Crouch is available after church on Sundays to share more information on each of these committees. You can also reach him at (804) 402-2011.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men of St James:

If you have not received any correspondence from me by email, please contact me to be added to our Men's Group list. We are in the process of re-organizing our group to serve our GOD, Church, community, and fellowship with one another.

Thanks, and Blessings,
Fred (Ted) Kermode
Email: fkermode@verizon.net (941) 807-3176
PH Cell: 941 807-3176

Our Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet again on **Wednesday, December 21st, at 8:00am** in the Parish Hall.

ECW NEWS

Please join us for our Annual Christmas Luncheon
Tuesday, December 6th at 11:00 AM in the Parish Hall. The luncheon
is hosted by your ECW Board and Committees. All ladies of the church are
welcome . We will be entertained with music by Keys 2 Harmony



ECW Board and Committees
Meeting at 10:00 AM on December 6th

No Chapter meetings in December

Jody's Gift Shop

Our ECW Jody's Gift Shop is changing into holiday colors featuring Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have added a wonderful variety of items for table settings, decorations for the tree and house with lovely offerings for gift giving. We are now stocking Advent Calendars being offered for many different age groups. Thanks for your generous donations as we continue to welcome new or gently used Christmas décor items for decorations and gift giving along with any other items you choose to donate. Thanks to our volunteers and parishioners who continue to support the shop as the proceeds go to support our community outreach.

Food Drop

"Let us come before God's presence with Thanksgiving." Psalm 95:2

The parishioners of St. James showered many people with the November Food Drop. Volunteers, Terri and Van Galyon, Jan Tindall, Tanina Singeltary and Rita Clements greeted 27 cars and a multitude of others with a variety of transportation modes. The generous giving of food and monetary gifts reached great heights:

COLLECTED: 1162 POUNDS OF FOOD, \$1095.00

ONGOING TOTAL: 29,664 POUNDS OF FOOD, \$38,268.00

Thank you for your Thankfulness and ask for God's blessings. We look forward to the DECEMBER 20TH FOOD DROP , the THIRD WEDNESDAY IN DECEMBER.



Music Musings December

Love's Pure light...

This year's Christmas theme is a significant one to me, for a variety of reasons. I have always loved the concept (not original with me) that love is a light that shines through believers into a dark world, bringing hope and joy to all .

Some days it's a challenge to keep shining the light. And sometimes I wonder if my battery is going to run out, if I'll be able to shine faithfully to the end. Then I remember (or am reminded by a dear and audacious friend) that my battery is not mine to charge; it's God's. God both calls AND equips; God does the "charging;" I'm just the recipient. And, in turn, I am able to shine and share the love of God to all. At least that is my prayer.

My prayer for all of you is that you experience the power that comes through the touch of God's hand. Most often it can be found in the simple things...a kindness to a neighbor or salesperson, a donation to someone in need, a smile to cheer a sad heart. Each of these acts shines the love of Christ in very tangible ways.

This Christmas we will share the glorious message of "Love's Pure Light" in word and song every week in worship. And the choir's program on December 18th will do this as well, shining God's light and reminding us that the work of Christmas begins when all the excitement of the season ends. Please join us as we tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love...and light!

*"Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to the King.
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth..."*

Yours in Christ,
Deb Carraway
Music Director and Organist



- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Bonnie Kern | 18 Denise Carpenter |
| Alexandra Northcott Fuentes | Sam Musso |
| 3 Gail Robinson | 19 Beau Young |
| 3 Andrew Braun | Ferrell Young |
| 4 Richard Province | 21 Bill Cauthen |
| Claire Brooks | Jason Gray |
| 6 Maddison Young | 22 W. Dennis Koski |
| 7 Margaret Branham | Della Usher |
| Ron Vedder | 24 Dee Kermode |
| 10 Robin Cauthen | Ted Kermode |
| George Kramer | 26 Meredith Kirste |
| Bruce Saylor | 27 Benjamin Trees |
| 11 Jim Mitchell | 29 Betty Stephens |
| Callie Polk Wilkes | Ann Holden |
| 13 Mary Burnett | Lila Van Beek |
| 14 Bryon Oldham | 30 Anna Valdez |
| 16 James Pearson | Bonnie Binneveld |
| 17 Lyle Haddenham | |



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|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4 Dennis & Peggy Koski | 18 Ferrell & Carol Young |
| 13 Terry & Nancy Mitchell | 21 Ted & Judy Bedell |
| Trey & Kaitlyn Waddell | 27 Lee & Carol Hilbish |
| 18 Gary & Beverly Booth | Jim & Becky Mitchell |
| Jeff & Stephanie Engel | 31 Charles & Winnie Tucker |



The Daughters of the King meet the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00PM in the Parish Hall. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 14th when we resume our study of Parables. All women of the Parish are invited. Please join us for prayer and study.

BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jeff Brooke-Stewart continues to lead his Bible Study on Thursdays in the Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m. The study will continue up until Christmas, then start up again in the new year. They are currently in the third chapter of the First Epistle of John.

Our Intergenerational Sunday School, "Red Letter Edition", is on break for December. We will start up again in the New Year with interactive lessons on the teachings of Jesus. Be sure to join us then!

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND VESTRY ELECTION

Please mark your calendars for the **136th Annual Parish Meeting** which will take place on **Sunday, January 22nd, 2023 at 11:30 am** in the Parish Hall. Lunch will be included. We will review key events from 2022, confirm our budget, elect four new vestry members, and look forward to what God has in store for us in 2023.

We are currently taking nominations for our upcoming vestry term. Our Nominating Committee consists of Fr. Tom and our outgoing vestry members: Marc Crouch, Kathy Davidson, Bob Tindall, and Patti Wolf. If you have someone you would like to nominate to the vestry, please contact one of our committee members. Qualifications for vestry nomination are:

- 1) Communicant in Good Standing at St. James;
- 2) No less than 18 years old;
- 3) Faithful in religious attendance;
- 4) Financial supporter of record to the general parish budget;
- 5) No spouse serving concurrently on the vestry.



2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 4:00 Grief Support Group	2	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:00 Eucharist 10:15 Eucharist	5	6 10:00 ECW Board Mtg 11:00 ECW Holiday Luncheon	7 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 6:00 Children's Christmas Program "Stop, Look, Listen"	8 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service	9	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:00 Eucharist 10:15 Eucharist	12	13	14 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 2:00 DOK Meeting 5:00 Finance Mtg	15 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 6:00 Vestry Meeting	16	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent 8:00 Eucharist 10:15 Eucharist 4:00 St. James Choir Christmas Program "Love's Pure Light"	19	20	21 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy	22 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service	23	24 Eve of the Nativity 5:00 Eucharist 9:00 Eucharist
25 Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ 10:15 Eucharist	26	27	28 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 2:00 Dementia/Alzheimer Support Group	29 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service	30	31
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