

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, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God with us” (Matthew 1:23)

ADVENT @ ST. JAMES

Advent Event

Sunday, December 3rd @ 9:00 AM
in the Parish Hall

ECW Luncheon

Tuesday, December 5th @ 11:00 a.m.

Youth Choir Concert:

“Let Earth Receive Her King”

Wednesday, December 6th
@ 6:00 p.m. in the Church



Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 10th @ 4:00 p.m. in the Church

Bishop's Visit & Confirmation

Sunday, December 17th (Confirmation at 10:15)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

10:15 AM 4th Sunday of Advent (One Morning Service)

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service with Youth Choir

9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service with Adult Choir

(Pre-Service Music at 4:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

10:00 AM Christmas Day Service

DECEMBER 2023

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 Priest: Rev'd. Ron Peak

Assisting Deacon: Rev'd Art Hollows

Parish Organist/Choir Director: John Wilson

Youth Ministry and Choir Director: Elizabeth Williams

Treasurer: Linda Weekley

Parish / Finance Secretary: Pat Schaefer

Sexton: Wylie Hill

Housekeeping: Diane Smith

Vestry Members: Bill Cauthen, Dorry Curran, Danny Delgado (Senior Warden), Harry Hackney, Terri Galyon, Linda Grizzard, David Knowles, Chris Leware, Drew Logan (Junior Warden), Mackie McCabe, Dick Singeltary, Linda Weekley

St. James Prayer List

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

LONG TERM

Judy Cable
Dottie Elliott
Joyce Huey
Charles Hay
Charles Stephens
Jim Mitchell
Doug Springmann
Janet Davis
Ron Vedder
Paul Smigel
Kurt Cessna
Helen Williams
Bishop Michael Curry

Larry Bonofiglio
Fr. Bill Boyer
Mabel Burns
Shirley Long
Jesse Jones
Spencer Eaton
Robbie Eaton
Charlie & Lorraine
Johnson
Kim Wicklund
Kevin Carter
Brian Tuttle
Kathryn Knight

SHORT TERM

Olive
Nick Martin
Ginger Butler
Joe Branham

GRIEF SUPPORT

The Grief Support Gathering will meet **Thursday, December 7, at 3:00 PM at the Coffee Snob** (1101-1 W. North Blvd, Leesburg). The topic: **"Christmases Past; Reminiscing Treasured Memories with our Loved Ones"**
Want to find out more? Contact Susan Cyrus at (352) 636-8969

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We have a new Young Adult Group that will begin meeting on **Saturday, December 2nd, at 7:00 PM in the St. Nicholas House**. This group is hosted by Joel Trees and some of his close friends who attended The Alpha Course recently.

The goal of our gatherings is to see how the Holy Spirit can impact our daily life through the study of Scripture and prayer. We welcome anyone from any background to join us as we discuss what it means to follow Jesus as an everyday Christian.

Our primary source for discussion will come from a web site called "The Bible Project." This site offers numerous short videos on all the books of the Bible and the many themes that emerge from them. Consider inviting the young adults you know who might benefit from the genuine fellowship that can be found in this Christ-like friend group!

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Many exciting things are happening this month with our St. James Young people! Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

First up is "Let Earth Receive Her King" at 6pm on December 6th up in the church. This is our annual Christmas Concert featuring the very gifted young singers of our youth choirs, as well as several adult musicians who will be lending their talents as we celebrate the gift of Jesus to the whole world, and ready our hearts to receive his light. We look forward to seeing you there!

During the 10:15 Sunday services, we continue with **Communion Classes** in preparation for Bishop Holcomb's visit. The children have been learning important things about what makes us a church family, and why we do certain things when we gather for worship. December 17th, 6 young people will receive a special blessing from the Bishop during service in recognition of their first eucharist.

And finally: the **Youth Christmas Party!** On **Wednesday, December 20th**, the St Nicholas House will be open starting at 4pm for our 2nd annual camp-IN! There will be food, group games and activities, movies, and time to just be together. Any students wishing to stay the night **MUST** give advance notice. We'll have breakfast in the morning and ick-up by 9am on Thursday, December 21st. If you are interested in helping with dinner on Wednesday, breakfast on Thursday, or if you have an air mattress we could borrow for the event, please reach out to Beth Williams at (352) 702-2062.

In the busyness of the season, I pray that we will all have hearts that are open and hands ready to serve. I look forward to what God will do through us!

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Join us for our **Men's Prayer Breakfast** on **Wednesday, December 20th**, at **8:00am** in the Parish Hall. We are going through *Mere Christianity*.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Jeff Brooke-Stewart continues to meet for his Bible study on Thursdays at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall. They are studying the Gospel of John, verse by verse. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:14)

A STEWARDSHIP THANK YOU

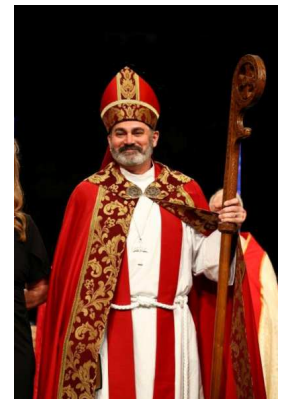


"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received" (1st Peter 4:10)

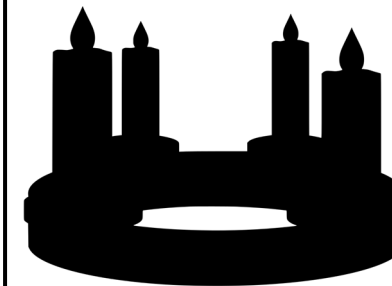
We had a wonderful Stewardship Sunday and Ministry Fair on November 19th, as we focused on our call to be "Faithful Stewards of God's Grace." We'd like to thank all of you who made your financial commitment to St. James for 2024. If you would still like to make a pledge, you can send in your card, or contact the church at office@stjames-leesburg.org, or 352-787-1981.

BISHOP'S VISIT AND CONFIRMATION Sunday, December 17th

We are excited to have **Bishop Justin Holcomb** make his first official visit to St. James! At our 10:15 service on December 17th he will confirm or receive several of our parishioners into the Episcopal Church, and bless our children who have completed their Communion Class. We will have a reception for Bishop Justin, our confirmands, and our children after the service.



ST. JAMES ADVENT EVENT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD @ 9:00 AM IN THE PARISH HALL



Join us as we begin the season of Advent with a special project to give you and your family some tools to help keep Christ in Christmas!

Breakfast is included!

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) December News



ECW will be having their annual **Christmas Luncheon** on **Tuesday, December 5th at 11:00AM in the Parish Hall**. All women are invited to attend and enjoy music of the season performed by Sarah Araque and friends. Refreshments will be provided by the ECW Board and the Hospitality Committee.

There will be no Chapter meetings in the month of December

MONTHLY FOOD DROP

Our St. James FOOD DROP "SCORED" as volunteers, Terri and Van Galyon, Tanina Singletary, Jan Tindall and Rita Clements met 32 cars with their food, money and drivers.

COLLECTED: 675 pounds of food
 \$705.00

TOTAL TO DATE: 39,299 pounds of food
 \$48,212.00

When you visit the grocery stores, look for BOGO while sharing with and keeping the Leesburg Food Bank in mind. Our next FOOD DROP will take place on **Wednesday, December 20th from 9:00-12:00**. God blessings go with you for the holidays!

JODY'S GIFT SHOP UPDATE

As we say farewell to 2023, we are thankful for the prosperity we are experiencing. The rewards become evident when the proceeds are given to our ministries for local, state and worldwide community needs. It continues to be an exciting adventure meeting and greeting friends when shopping, selling and stocking shelves. Due to a recent very large donation of goods, we are stocked beyond any expectations. SHOPPING IS HAPPENING AT A PREMIUM with a lovely series of Hallmark Collectibles, beautiful glassware, handmade holiday wreaths, holiday ornaments, purses, handmade quilts, lovely linens dish towels, soup cozies and many more. There is a JIM SHORE SANTA ON THE CHANCE BLOCK, TICKETS \$1.00 OR 6 for \$5.00! The SANTA drawing will take place on December 17th and the winner will be called. **December Hours for Jody's Gift Shop are:**

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10:00-2:00

Sundays 9:00-12:00

The shop will close on December 17th and reopen on January 7th, 2024!!!
Jody's Gift Shop will close on December 17th, 2023 and open on January 7, 2024!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Hello,

Everyone is invited to our Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 10th at 4pm. The service will be based on readings from Genesis, Isaiah, Micah and Luke. Our St. James Choir will be performing both old and new anthems in celebration of the coming birth of Christ. The service will also include a piece from our children's choir. Although this service is different from other traditional Christmas themed lessons and carols, it will surely help to prepare our hearts within this Advent season.

"Hark! The glad sound! The Savior comes."

Prayerfully yours,

John Wilson

LIBRARY CORNER

In the process of assembling Advent and Christmas season books for our parish house book truck display, I located a book by John Grisham, (yes, THE John Grisham, lawyer cum crime and mystery author), titled SKIPPING CHRISTMAS. Our library has two copies and I "confess" I haven't read the book...until now. What does John have to say on this subject, which might occur in the minds of adults caught up in their overworked, distraction-filled worlds. (Children will, of course, not consider such a skip).

Advent and Christmas, for me among the millions who will agree, is a season not to be skipped. Inspirational books to support it abound in our parish library, as well as on-line and just everywhere. Please do check out the joys of perhaps your favorite season by reading and reflecting about it.

Have a MERRY, MERRY HOLIDAY SEASON, A CHRISTMAS SEASON, and be thankful for books, one of best gifts ever.

Faithfully, Margaret Branham, Parish Librarian



Congratulations to our new Daughters, **Eunice Mattear, Annabelle Wright, and Joyce Walworth!** Our service on Christ the King Sunday was a joyful one. The Daughters of the King meet the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00PM in the Parish Hall. Our next meeting will be on **December 13th, 2023**. All women are invited and welcome to attend.



- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Bonnie Kern | 16 James Pearson |
| Alex Northcott Fuentes | 17 Lyle Haddenham |
| 3 Gail Robinson | 18 Denise Carpenter |
| Terri Brock | Sam Musso |
| 4 Andrew Braun | 19 Beau Young |
| 5 Richard Province | Ferrell Young |
| Claire Brooks | 21 Bill Cauthen |
| 6 Maddison Young | Jason Gray |
| 7 Margaret Branham | 22 W. Dennis Koski |
| Ron Vedder | Della Usher |
| 9 Dee Saylor | 24 Dee Kermode |
| 10 Robin Cauthen | Ted Kermode |
| George Kramer | 26 Meredith Kirste |
| Bruce Saylor | Caden Smalley |
| 11 Jim Mitchell | 27 Ben Trees |
| Callie Wilkes | 29 Betty Stephens |
| 13 Dale Janzinski | Lila Van Beek |
| Mary Burnett | 30 Bonnie Binneveld |
| 14 Byron Oldham | |



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

Congratulations Joel and Leanne!

We rejoice with **Joel Trees and Leanne Brignoni**, who were married at St. James on Saturday, November 4th, 2023.

“Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder.”



Ronald McDonald House

St. James ECW is making great headway collecting POP-TOPS for the Ronald McDonald House. Not only is our congregation pulling TOPS, many of our friends and neighbors are pulling along with us. Many thanks friends! We wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and a blessed new year. ECW will continue collecting POP-TOPS in 2024.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Thank you everyone for helping make the ECW Bazaar a success. The many donations of items for sale and the willingness of so many to pitch in and get things done was a joy to witness. A report on the final amount

SIMPLE SUPPERS FOR SIX (*Sign Up by December 3rd*)

The St. James Fellowship Committee invites you to sign up for our new foyer dinners that we are calling “Simple Suppers for Six.” This fellowship activity focuses on building spiritual community within our congregation by opening the doors of our homes to each other. We want to bring the Holy Spirit to our small gatherings, just as Jesus and his apostles were invited into homes to share a simple meal. We will start out with a simple supper in the Parish Hall on **December 12th** for all who sign up. There you will meet others who will be randomly assigned to your group of six. Groups will be a mix of couples and pairs of singles. No matter what your situation, we want you to participate, and so the rules are minimal – three dinners in three months. We will be providing different ideas about setting up the suppers so you can choose what best fits your group. Before you leave the parish hall that evening, your group will plan for dates (in Jan, Feb, Mar), time, and locations for three “simple suppers for six”. So please bring your calendars. These dinners provide us with a chance to get to know each other beyond sharing the peace in the pews. Conversations around the table will give you opportunities to learn more about each other and your spiritual journeys. Many Episcopal Churches have some variation of foyer dinners or dinner clubs. The Fellowship Committee has taken a number of suggestions and created this group format to fit the needs of our congregation – simple, small, inclusive and inviting. If you have questions, please contact any of us on the Fellowship Committee – Kathy Davidson (302-373-5817), Delcie Durham (813-830-8312), delciedr@hotmail.com Sue Hackney (352-406-6591), Barney Woodward (352-267-5812).



2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Wedding Galbreath/ Alejandro
3 First Sunday of Advent 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Children's Church 10:15 Eucharist	4 6:30 Stephen Ministry	5 10:00 ECW Board Mtg 11:00 ECW Holiday Luncheon	6 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 6:00 Youth Choir Concert: "Let Earth Receive Her King"	7 10:00 Healing and Anointing Service 3:00 Grief Support Meeting	8	9
10 Second Sunday of Advent 8:00 Eucharist 10:00 Children's Church 10:15 Eucharist 4:00 Lessons and Carols	11	12 6:00 Simple Suppers for Six	13 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 2:00 DOK	14 10:00 Healing and Anointing Service	15	16
17 Third Sunday of Advent Bishop Holcomb Visit 8:00 Eucharist 10:15 Confirmation	18	19	20 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 5:00 Finance Mtg	21 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 6:00 Vestry Mtg.	22	23
24 Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:15 Eucharist The Eve of the Nativity 5:00 Eucharist (Youth) 9:00 Eucharist (Adult)	25 Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ 10:00 Eucharist	26	27	28 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service	29	30
31 The First Sunday after Christmas Day 8:00 Eucharist 10:15 Eucharist						