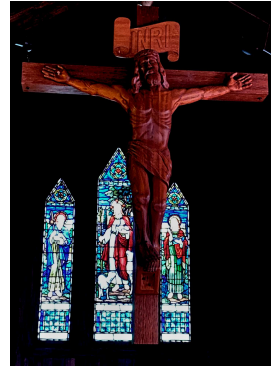


St. James seeks to be a community that grows more Christlike, expressing the love of Jesus Christ in our worship, our outreach, and our commitment to discipleship.

ST. JAMES MESSENGER



An Invitation to a Holy Lent

Lent begins this year on
ASH WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 14th,

With the Imposition of Ashes at
8:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

*The 6:00 PM service will include Holy Eucharist,
with music and hymns*

On the First Sunday in Lent, February 18th, we will read The Great Litany. This rite of penitence goes back to the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549. Deacon Art Hollows will deliver the sermon.

On the Second Sunday in Lent, February 25th, the sermon will be delivered by Sebastiana Springmann, who is a Postulant for Holy Orders at St. James.

Our Sunday Eucharists in Lent will be Rite I at both 8:00 and 10:15 AM. Rite I utilizes classical Anglican language, and focuses more deeply on the theology of Christ's atonement.

We encourage each of you to make a Lenten commitment to attend church, if possible, every Sunday, and take part in at least one opportunity for learning, fellowship and discipleship:

- Jeff Brook-Stewart's **Bible Study** meets each Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Our **Intergenerational Sunday School** meets on Sundays at 9:00.
- Our **Men's Prayer Breakfast** meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 8:00 AM.
- Our **ECW General Meeting** is on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM; and **Chapter Meetings** are on the 3rd Tuesday or Wednesday of the month.

Before we begin our Lenten discipline, we invite you to celebrate with us for our annual

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER
on **FEBRUARY 13TH**

At 6:00pm in the Parish Hall.
Regular or Gluten Free options are available!



FEBRUARY 2024

The Messenger is a monthly publication of St. James' Episcopal Church in Leesburg, Florida. It is mailed on the last week 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: Denise Cornett <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 Deacon: Rev'd Art Hollows

Parish Organist/Choir Director: John Wilson

Youth Ministry and Choir Director: Elizabeth Williams

Treasurer: Linda Weekley

Parish Secretary: Denise Cornett

Finance Secretary: Pat Schaefer

Sexton: Wylie Hill

Housekeeping: Diane Smith

Vestry Members: Bill Binneveld, Rita Clements, Dorry Curran, Terri Galyon (Senior Warden), Linda Grizzard, David Knowles, Drew Logan (Junior Warden), Mackie McCabe, Stuart Mowatt, Marvin Naylor, Dick Singeltary, Linda Weekley

St. James Prayer List

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

LONG TERM

Judy Cable
Dottie Elliott
Charles Hay
Charles Stephens
Jim Mitchell
Doug Springmann
Paul Smigel
Janet Davis
Ron and Dot Vedder
Fr. Bill Boyer
Larry Bonofiglio
Mabel Burns
Kathryn Knight
Pratt Carter

Shirley Long
Hailey Williams
Brian Tuttle
Olive
Nick Martin
Ginger Butler
Joe Branham
Helen Williams
Bishop Michael Curry
Charlie & Lorraine
Johnson

SHORT TERM

Tom Robertshaw
Rhonda Jones
Bill Binneveld
George and Honey Gfroerer
Mondeson Mondesir
Kurt Cessna



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

A prayer shawl ministry is a ministry of compassion and the love of knitting or crocheting. The shawls are a source of God's unconditional love, wrapped around a person for comfort and solace, for people going through difficult times as well as times of celebration and joy.

If you are interested in this Ministry you may contact.

Joyce Walworth 727-517-5078 or joywalw2@gmail.com

GRIEF SUPPORT

The Grief Support Gathering meets on the First Thursday of every month at 3:00 PM at the Coffee Snob

(1101 North Blvd. W, Ste. #1 Leesburg).

Want to find out more? Contact Susan Cyrus at (352) 636-8969



UKULELE MINISTRY
with RALPH LAMBERT
and BIRDY CONNOLLY
Starting February 12th

Birdy and I would like to bring the joy of ukulele to everyone, not just our parishioners, but to everyone who wants to learn a new musical instrument, sing and give back to our community. We will offer free basic lessons to learn many songs from the 40's to now . Our goal is, once we have a strong core group, to go out to retirement homes and bring them joy with songs and fellowship. There will be opportunities to have mini concerts and maybe even play in church or church events.

This invitation is open to everyone of any age. Bring your ukulele and yourself every **second and fourth Monday of the month at 7pm to 8pm**. We will gather in the small chapel. So come join us and have some fun . My contact number is: 706-799-3284

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Join us for our **Men's Prayer Breakfast** on **Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 8:00am** in the Parish Hall. Starting in February, we will have a Bible study on the upcoming Sunday's Lectionary readings. Join us!

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Jeff Brooke-Stewart's Bible study on Thursdays at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall. They have begun their series on The Book of Acts. There is plenty of time to join! They are currently in the second chapter, covering the Day of Pentecost.

FROM JOHN, OUR ORGANIST...

The St James Choir is looking for singers to join us for Easter. Come sing with us during Lent as we prepare for the resurrection of Christ this season. You don't have to commit to the whole year and we would love to learn, sing and worship with you. Beginners are welcome and encouraged to give choir a try! We hope to see you with us. God bless.

ST. JAMES INTERGENERATIONAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL



Our **Red Letter Edition** Sunday School meets at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall.

For each lesson we seek to apply the words and actions of Jesus in a lively and interactive setting, focusing on the Sunday's Gospel reading. Breakfast is included!

Our schedule for February is as follows:

February 4th- Mark 1:29-39 **Jesus heals Peter's mother in law and the whole town.**

February 11th- Mark 9:2-9 **The Transfiguration**

February 18th & 25th-- *Off for Jamaica Medical Mission*

CONNECT ORIENTATION SERIES
February/March 2024

The next presentation of the Connect Orientation Series will start on February 11th. These sessions are designed to present information about several aspects of worshiping at St. James, and they are open to everyone -- "newcomers" and "old-timers" alike.

All sessions are held in the Meeting Room in the St. Nicholas House. They run from 9:15 to 9:45. No registration is necessary -- just show up.

Series Schedule:

February 11: The History of St. James

February 18: "Why We Do What We Do" -- Understanding the Service at St. James

February 25: Spiritual Gifts Inventory -- Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts

March 10: Ministry and Mission at St. James

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

The ECW Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday February 6th at 9.00 am.

The General Meeting will commence at 10.00 am.

The program will feature a presentation by Jeanne Nicolosi on The Holy Trinity School in Fruitland Park.

The St. Francis Chapter will host the meeting.

Chapter Meetings will take place on February 20th and 21st.

Ronald McDonald House- The women of ECW thank all the “Pop Top” pullers for their support of Ronald McDonald House and will continue “pulling”. There is a new project in the planning stage. The women of ECW have the opportunity to prepare and serve dinner to the 30-35 residents of the Arnold Palmer House in Orlando next month (March). At that time we will be taking all the “Pop Tops” We are all anxious to learn how many pounds we have “pulled”!

MONTHLY FOOD DROP



January FOOD DROP was met by volunteers, Nina Bonney, Terri and Van Galyon, Tanina Singletary, Jan Tindall and Rita Clements walking a fast warming pace to meet our brave parishioners who brought food and money from 31 cars in 44 degree temperature.

COLLECTED: 895 pounds of food \$425.00

TOTAL TO DATE: 40,194 pounds of food \$48,637.00

Once again, your incredible support continues to show the care for our community. “So faith, hope, love abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.” Corinthians 13:13 See you Wednesday, February 21st from 9:00-12:00. Blessings to you.



Our Jamaica Medical Mission team will be ministering at St. Mary’s Anglican Parish in Port Maria, from February 17th-24th. We ask your prayers for our whole mission team of over 50 members, including our parishioners from St. James: Stuart & Herma Mowatt, Marvin & Valerie Naylor, Ross & Marion Belson, Joel & Leanne Trees, Fr. Tom Trees, Chris Mead, Nancy Russell, and Tony Cobb.

“Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*” (BCP 816-17)

LIBRARY CORNER

You have probably checked your calendar already to affirm the beginning of the season of Lent this year, and realize that Lent begins on Feb. 14th, Valentine’s Day.

This doubling up of special days could present a challenge to both celebrating by giving or receiving loving presents, such as a box of chocolates, to honor St. Valentine and a loved one, to a decision to give up chocolate as you follow your way of honoring your chosen Lenten rules of denial. How could we deal with this conundrum? Choose a HEART as an acronym of the Christian Lenten season, and for each letter of HEART devise a method for your preparations for Easter during the 40 days of Lent:

H (eart) - Help out around the house.

E - Eliminate one thing that keeps you from having God as the center of your life, (such as a video game, junk food or complaining).

A - Add one thing to your life that puts God in your life, like regular church attendance.

R - Relationship,, spend time with someone alone or lonely, such as a resident of a nursing home or a grand parent.

T- Talk to God in prayer; start and end your day with prayer and ask for His blessing.

Following the HEART method, you would be celebrating LOVE and keeping it going. Our Christian faith is about LOVE for one another, and the literal symbol HEART represents that LOVE. Have a prayerful Lent and a Happy Valentine’s Day.

Please note that the book trucks in the parish hall are now filled with books of Lenten Meditation for your enjoyment. Check them out.



February Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Linda Gray | 12 | Lisa James |
| 2 | James Breeden | | Ross Hackney |
| 4 | Linda Hintze | 13 | Carolyn Hoth |
| | Elaine Samson | | Joel Trees |
| 5 | Charles Stephens | 19 | James Parker |
| | Anne McCoy | | Susan Hughes |
| 6 | Seth Peter Trees | | Linley Van Beek |
| | Meghan Young | 20 | Beverly Bounds |
| 7 | Janice Tindall | | Lolita Sergio |
| | Katie Van Beek | 22 | Dorothy Gustafson |
| 8 | Mark Palmer | 23 | Susan Cyrus |
| 9 | Beth Williams | 25 | Fran Deems |
| | Ferrell Young | | Judith Reddick |
| 10 | Cori Padgett | | Ronald Parsons |
| | Ella Bennett | 26 | Nancy Moran |
| 11 | Margaret Bolton | 27 | Avery Brooks |
| 12 | Dewey Waddell III | | Ellen Brooks |
| | William Tweedle | 29 | Sheryl Lash |
| | Teresa Neumann | | Sue Roeglin |

February Anniversaries



- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 6 | William and Lisa James | 27 | Ronald and Beverly Parsons |
| 14 | Wayne and Delores Griffin | 28 | Robert and Amy Bowersox |
| 15 | James and Susan Soltysiak | | |

ECW GRAND AUCTION

After a long hiatus (thanks to COVID), the ECW Grand Auction is back on the schedule. We will be holding the Grand Auction (both the Live Auction & the Silent Auction), on Friday, February 9, 2024, starting at 6:00 PM. Tickets for the event are \$5, and will be sold after the services during the month of January.

The schedule for the Grand Auction is:

- 6:00 Doors open; Silent Auction starts
Complimentary hors d'ouvers will be served;
drinks available for a donation
- 7:00 Live Auction begins
- 8:00 Silent Auction ends

The Grand Auction is a huge fund-raiser for ECW, enabling it to do a lot of charitable work.

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.



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 **February 14, 2024, which will be held at 1:00PM due to Ash Wednesday.** All women are invited and welcome to attend.

Need to Meet with Fr. Tom?

If you would like to 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.



2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 3:00 Grief Support 6:30 Bible Study	2	3
4 5th Sunday after Epiphany 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist	5 6:30 Stephen Ministry	6 9:00 ECW Board Mtg 10:00 ECW General Mtg	7 12:00 Coffee & Philos. 4:00 Jubilate 5:00 Finance 6:30 Adult Choir	8 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 6:00 Vestry 6:30 Bible Study	9 6:00 ECW Grand Auction	10 2:00 Mancini/Riordan Wedding
11 Last Sunday after Epiphany 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist 9:00 Jody's Gift Shop Valentine's Bake Sale	12 7:00 Ukulele Lessons	13 Shrove Tuesday 6:00 Pancake Supper	14 Ash Wednesday 8:00, 12:00, 6:00 Imposition of Ashes 1:00 DOK 4:00 Jubilate	15 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 6:30 Bible Study	16	17 Jamaica Medical Mission Begins — returning Feb. 24th
18 1st Sunday in Lent 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist	19	20 ECW Chapter Meetings	21 8:00 Men's Prayer 12:00 Coffee & Philos. 4:00 Jubilate 6:30 Adult Choir	22 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 6:30 Bible Study	23	24
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist	26 7:00 Ukulele Lessons	27	28 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 4:00 Jubilate 6:30 Adult Choir	29 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 6:30 Bible Study		