



# **JULY 2026 MESSENGER**



We are grateful for those of you who took part in our Holy Cow survey last month. We had **177** responses! Our Vestry reviewed the results with the Holy Cow Consultant in an extended Zoom meeting, with some excellent feedback.

The specific data is available for any of you to review. Our Vestry also had a retreat with Rev'd Cynthia Brust to help us synthesize that information into our Mission and Vision Statements.

Terry Crabtree did an outstanding job of summarizing that feedback at our congregational meeting on June 28th. Here is a brief recap of what we learned: Holy Cow measures the current experiences, perceptions, and aspirations within a congregation. Specifically, it focuses on two key areas: Climate and Culture. The Climate measures the “temperature” of a congregation in terms of its overall satisfaction and energy. The Culture measures a congregation’s theological beliefs (“conservative” or “progressive”), and worship and ministry practices (“settled” or “adaptable”).

Our “Climate” score rated very high in both energy and satisfaction, which puts us in the “transformational” quadrant. Only 15-20% of churches surveyed can say that. Our “Culture” rates as “conservative” and “settled,” which puts us in the “Hearth and Home” quadrant. There are many positives about “Hearth and Home” churches. They have structure, stability, and deep spiritual commitment. The downside is that they are risk and conflict averse, which can hinder opportunities to reach people with the gospel and grow. How to become more flexible in a manner appropriate to our setting will be one of our biggest challenges. But we are already adapting in ways we haven’t done before, as 40% of our current active membership has joined in just the last four years. That’s a high rate of growth! We have many opportunities ahead of us. We invite your ongoing input as we engage in strategic planning for ministry at St. James. We will keep you informed!

## August Grief Support Meeting



Our next Grief Support Gathering is on Thursday, August 6th (Chapel). At the June Dinner gathering we decided to skip the month of July since many of us have other plans the week of July 4th. As usual Meet and Greet will start at 3:00 on the Veranda In front of the Parish Hall. Bottled water and a small snack (usually chocolate) are provided.

Our conversation topic for August is “Understanding Grief Bursts and their Triggers”. Grief Bursts bring our loss rushing back to the surface, often when we least expect it. According to Dr. Alan Wolfelt this is very normal. Join us as we share our experiences and share what triggers our grief bursts.

Our grief support group is open to anyone who has lost a loved one and needs support from others who know firsthand what they are going through.

Blessings to all of you, *Susan Cyrus, Grief Support Facilitator*



### KEEP FLIPPING THOSE TOPS



I am always amazed at the number of flip top / pull tops that are awaiting to be pulled. There are soup cans, tuna fish cans, soda cans, condensed milk cans, baked bean cans and even anchovy cans, and last but not least - beer cans! I'm sure that you will be able to name several too. We are ever so grateful to Ted Kermode who built the container for the pull tops and for his wife, Dee for the painting along the side.

Have a wonderful summer pulling the tabs, and remember that your tabs help pay for electricity at the Ronald McDonald House.

### LIBRARY CORNER

#### **“HOUSED” IN THE GARDEN**

One of the great things about our PARISH LIBRARY is it's window, from which you can see the BUTTERFLY GARDEN, a joy to behold, and notice the folks who arrive in the parking lot to pursue their interests and tasks at sacred St. James.

Remember, there is an outstanding book on butterflies “housed” in the garden. Hope you will find it.

Meanwhile, let's thank all who work relentlessly to keep our gardens in bloom: among these **Winnie Tucker, Wylie Hill, Chris Meade, Jan Tindall, John Crane, the Bowersox's** and others who no doubt arrive after I go home.

*Margaret Branham, St. James Librarian*



**WINNIE TUCKER on site in  
The Butterfly Garden,  
JUNE' 26**

## **JUNE FOOD DROP**

Many children in Lake County are enjoying and receiving nutritional meals and snacks this summer, thanks to St. James parishioners shopping for the June Food Drop! We volunteers , Tanina and Dick Singeltary , Barbara Logan, Terri Galyon , Bill Binneveld and Rita Clements again met and visited with our faithful donators in the community and members bringing in food and monetary contributions for the June Food Drop.

### **TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED:**

~ **571 Pounds of Food from St. James**  
~ **\$580.00**



### **TOTAL AMOUNT TO DATE:**

~ **53,588 Pounds of Food**  
~ **\$61,550.00**

We are looking forward to our next **FOOD DROP** on the third Wednesday of the month, on a hot sunny day, **July 15 from 9:00 to 12:00**. There are also **FOOD BINS** in the Parish Hall kitchen for earlier drops. The Leesburg Food Bank continues to appreciate the increasing **DONATIONS** for food and monetary contributions for those in our community.

Blessings to you all and Stay Safe!

I am leaving you with a gift--peace of mind and heart, John 14:27 *Rita Clements*



## **Announcing: Spiritual Formation Opportunity Coming Soon!**

Mother Sebastiana, Deacon Art, and Dorry Curran will be co-facilitating a new program of spiritual formation training at St. James. The first phase of this program will take place during the Sunday School hour starting on August 2, 2026. This course will continue each Sunday through September 9, 2026.

We will be using a video series, Signs and Grace, offered by the Episcopal Church. The sessions will include group discussions and opportunities for self-discovery. This first phase of our coordinated spiritual formation program focuses on the Sacraments and will meet the education requirement for those who wish to be Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church. Other parishioners might also want to participate in this course, especially since we will follow this orientation course with a more comprehensive offering starting in October. If you are interested in becoming Confirmed or Received, please contact Mother Sebastiana at 352-460-1806 or [revsebastiana@stjames-leesburg.org](mailto:revsebastiana@stjames-leesburg.org)

If you are NOT seeking confirmation or reception but wish to join us on this first phase of our 2026-2027 coordinated spiritual formation program please contact Dorry Curran at [tinkrvl@gmail.com](mailto:tinkrvl@gmail.com) or 949-633-8471 . When you sign up for this program we will need the following information: Name, Address, Phone Number, and Email Address.

**We are looking forward to learning with you!**

# TWO NEW PROGRAMS FOR OUR ST. JAMES CHILDREN

A strong children's program is an essential part of the church's mission because it helps nurture the faith of the next generation. Through Bible lessons, worship, prayer, music, and fellowship, children learn about God's love and develop a personal relationship with the church in a safe and caring environment.

## Junior Daughters of the King ~ Chapter for the Girls Junior Brotherhood of St. Andrew ~ Chapter for the Boys.

**The meetings will be held twice a month on Sundays from 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.  
(Dates to be announced).**

Please join us for a sign-up meeting for both chapters on **Sunday, August 16, 2026 from 12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.**

For more information regarding the Jr. Brotherhood of St. Andrew, please contact:  
**Sean Lahey 407-461-3112 / [sean.lahey@yahoo.com](mailto:sean.lahey@yahoo.com)**

For more information regarding the Jr. Daughters of the King, please contact:  
**Elizabeth Linberger, Directress 407-417-4849 / Lara Lahey, Co-Directress 407-461-7014**



# St. James Episcopal Church

## JUNIOR BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

FOR BOYS AND YOUNG MEN



### WHAT IS THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW?

An international Anglican ministry founded in 1883 for the spread of Christ's Kingdom among men and boys through Prayer, Study, and Service.

### THE THREE DISCIPLINES:

**PRAYER:**  
Daily prayer for the spread of Christ's Kingdom

**STUDY:**  
Regular Bible study and Christian formation

**SERVICE:**  
Hands-on projects serving the church and community

### WHO CAN JOIN?

  
Baptized boys and young men under age 21.  
Open to all interested in growing in faith with fellow brothers.

### BENEFITS FOR YOUR SON:

- ✓ Strong Christian friendships
- ✓ Leadership development
- ✓ Service opportunities
- ✓ Spiritual growth and accountability



## JOIN US!

**CONTACT: SEAN LAHEY**  
407-461-3112  
[sean.lahey@ioausa.com](mailto:sean.lahey@ioausa.com)

**NATIONAL OFFICE:**  
[brothersandrew.net](http://brothersandrew.net) | (502) 450-5640

**St. James Episcopal Church • Leesburg, Florida**  
204 N Lee St • (352) 787-1981



# JUNIOR Daughter OF THE KING



## SIGN-UP MEETING



### EVENT DETAILS

-  August 16, 2026
-  12:30–1:00 PM
-  St James Episcopal Church  
Parish Hall  
204 Lee Street  
Leesburg, Florida



### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- ♥ Learn about activities and service projects.
- ♥ Get materials for 8 weekly intro sessions.
- ♥ Program start date: August 23, 2026
- ♥ Meetings will be held Sundays 12:30–2:00 PM.
- ♥ After the intro sessions, meetings will be twice a month.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

-  Elizabeth Linberger — 407-417-4849
-  Lara Lahey — 407-461-7014





# ST. JAMES MINISTRIES



Getting involved in the life and ministries of St. James is an important way to grow in faith, build meaningful relationships, and serve others. Church programs provide opportunities to worship, learn, pray, and share our God-given gifts with the congregation and the community. Throughout July and August we will be featuring the many ministries available here at St. James so you can become familiar with what St. James has to offer.

If you are interested in participating in one of our ministries, please contact the volunteer mentioned or the church office: **353-787-1981 / [office@stjames-leesburg.org](mailto:office@stjames-leesburg.org)**

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## ACOLYTES

Many of our youth serve Acolytes during the 10:15 worship services and provide effective assistance to our clergy and worship leaders. It is always a pleasure to observe the determination of our acolytes to do their absolute best in performing their tasks.

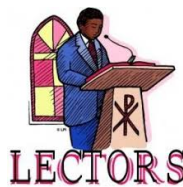
Training and guidance is provided and Acolytes serve once a month or as needed.

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## ALTAR GUILD

The St. James Altar Guild is an organization of women who are dedicated to preparing the altar and sanctuary for each worship service. Each of the four teams serves on a given week each month, which includes its important role in preparation for weddings, funerals and other special services.

Altar Guild members are unsung heroes in assuring that the worshipful experience can be fully appreciated by those who attend services at St. James.



St. James is always in the need of the following for both services: Lay Eucharistic Minister, who read the Epistle and assist with the Eucharist; Greeters, who greet newcomers; Lectors, who read the 1<sup>st</sup> lesson and psalm; or an Usher, who hand out the church bulletins and assist with collections.

| SUNDAY                                                                                                               |  | MONDAY                                                                              |  | TUESDAY                    |    | WEDNESDAY                                                                                    |  | THURSDAY |                                                                          | FRIDAY |    | SATURDAY                                                                                                                 |                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <div>Blessed is the Nation<br/>whose God is Lord</div> <div>JULY 2026</div>                                          |  |                                                                                     |  | <div>Psalm<br/>33:12</div> | 1  | 12:00 Coffee &<br>Philosophy<br>(Coffee Snob)                                                |  | 2        | 8:30-12 Library Open<br>10:00 Healing &<br>Anointing Service<br>(Chapel) |        | 3  | CHURCH<br>OFFICE<br>CLOSED                                                                                               | <div>4th<br/>of<br/>July</div> |
| 5 6th Sunday after Pentecost<br>8:00 Eucharist (RITE I)<br>10:15 Eucharist (RITE I)                                  |  | 6                                                                                   |  | 7                          | 8  | 12:00 Coffee &<br>Philosophy<br>(Coffee Snob)<br>2:00 Daughters of the King<br>(Parish Hall) |  | 9        | 8:30-12 Library Open<br>10:00 Healing &<br>Anointing Service<br>(Chapel) |        | 10 | 11                                                                                                                       |                                |
| 12 7th Sunday after Pentecost<br>8:00 Eucharist (RITE I)<br>10:15 Eucharist (RITE II)<br>2:30 Dulcimer (Parish Hall) |  | 13 3:00 Stephen<br>Ministry<br>6:00 Beginner<br>Ukulele<br>7:00 Advanced<br>Ukulele |  | 14                         | 15 | 9:00 - 12:00 Food Drop<br>12:00 Coffee &<br>Philosophy<br>(Coffee Snob)                      |  | 16       | 8:30-12 Library Open<br>10:00 Healing &<br>Anointing Service<br>(Chapel) |        | 17 | 18                                                                                                                       |                                |
| 19 8th Sunday after Pentecost<br>8:00 Eucharist (RITE I)<br>10:15 Eucharist (RITE I)                                 |  | 20                                                                                  |  | 21                         | 22 | 12:00 Coffee &<br>Philosophy<br>(Coffee Snob)                                                |  | 23       | 8:30-12 Library Open<br>10:00 Healing &<br>Anointing Service<br>(Chapel) |        | 24 | 25 9-3 ECW<br>St. Francis<br>Chapter Meeting<br>( St.Nicholas House)<br>11:00<br>Julitta Velton's<br>Memorial<br>Service |                                |
| 26 9th Sunday after Pentecost<br>8:00 Eucharist (RITE I)<br>10:15 Eucharist (RITE II)<br>2:30 Dulcimer (Parish Hall) |  | 27 6:00 Beginner<br>Ukulele<br>7:00 Advanced<br>Ukulele                             |  | 28                         | 29 | 12:00 Coffee &<br>Philosophy<br>(Coffee Snob)                                                |  | 30       | 8:30-12 Library Open<br>10:00 Healing &<br>Anointing Service<br>(Chapel) |        | 31 | GOD BLESS<br>AMERICA<br>250 YEARS!<br>1776<br>2026                                                                       |                                |

## BELL CHOIR

A handbell choir, ensemble, or team performs music on a set of handheld bells tuned to the chromatic scale. An entire handbell choir is itself a single instrument, with a musician responsible for only one or a very few select notes that, when played together with the other musicians, becomes rich melodies and harmonies.

*John Wilson, Parish Organist/Choir Director.*

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## BUTTERFLY GARDEN

The butterfly garden is a pride and joy of St. James. It is a peaceful place to find comfort in God's gifts of flowers and butterflies all throughout the year. St. James has a wonderful butterfly release in the spring to honor our loved ones. This is an amazing event.

Once a month volunteers are asked to help maintain the garden.

*Chris Meade or Winnie Tucker*



## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING



The Daughters of the King (DOK) is an order of women dedicated to prayer, service and evangelism. Each day the Daughters pray for those on the St. James prayer list and others in need of prayer.

The Daughters at St. James, known as the Martha and Mary Chapter, meet monthly for Bible Study and discussions, and to exchange ideas for enhancing the worship life of the Church.

Father Tom has inspired us through scripture, pointing out how as Christians we can follow Christ, and to work, pray and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.

The Daughters of the King meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Our next meeting will be on July 9th. *Cathrine Holt, President*

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## DULCIMER MINISTRY

If you want to learn how to play the Dulcimer, this is the group for you. This group is from the Villages and they meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. *Church Office*



## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

The mission of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) is to empower women to do Christ's ministry in the world. Our journey embraces a vision for ALL women of St. James to become a vibrant blend for all ages and to recognize the beauty of coming together to support and strengthen friendships while sharing the love of Christ. Members belong to specific chapters that meet monthly and a general meeting of all chapters is also held monthly. Meetings include Bible study, special programs related to a theme that is selected annually, planning for fundraising events and discussion of the business of the organization.

***Barnie Woodward, President***

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## EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

If you or someone you know would like to have Holy Communion brought from St. James to your residence, a hospital, assisted living facility or any other location where you are situated, please let us know. We have a wonderful team of Eucharistic Visitors who will receive the blessed sacrament at church and bring it directly to you. We would love to have you join us in our celebration, even though you cannot make it to church.

To schedule a visit, or to discuss your options, please contact: **Mtr. Sebastiana, Director of Pastoral Care: (352) 460-1806 or email [revsebastiana@stjames-leesburg.org](mailto:revsebastiana@stjames-leesburg.org)**



**STEPHEN MINISTRY**



Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation.

After being matched with a person experiencing a life crisis, the Stephen Minister meets with that person on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support, as long as the need for care exists.

The Stephen Ministry Program will be conducting a training session for new Stephen Ministers this Fall. This is an intensive training program that runs from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every Saturday, starting on September 12,th and ending with graduation on November 7th.

**Bob Tindall - (717) 575-3092 / Sherry Lash - (706) 614-0290**



# JULY BIRTHDAYS



**1st Eunice Mattear**

**Nancy Russell**

**4th Harold Jackson**

**Peggy Bryson**

**5th Ann Ozanne**

**6th Sean Lahey**

**Lauren McClurg**

**Isaac Trees**

**7th Rob English**

**Robin Rebusmen**

**8th Jeff Engel**

**Cheryl Nann**

**Rob Bowersox**

**9th Makenna Grizzard**

**10th David Dudley**

**Grady Logan**

**11th Linda Oldham**

**13th Valerie Abbott**

**Daniel Austin**

**Susan Battle**

**14th Mandy Tweedle**

**16th Kurt Cessna**

**Sandra Bryant**

**17th James Christian**

**Timothy Knowles**

**18th Bill Binneveld**

**Charles Esselburn**

**Cheryl Nann**

**19th Kristen Daley**

**24th Wylie Hill**

**25th Vicky Murphy**

**26th Winnie Tucker**

**28th Kara Pearson**

**31th Sandi Nolan**



## JULY ANNIVERSARIES



**1th Jeff & Bonnie Binneveld**

**4th James & Patricia Parker**

**5th Jason & Joanie Smalley**

**7th Bert & Karen Sofield**

**10th Wesley & Diane Brannon**

**11th Charles & Betty Stephen**

**12th Bruce & Debbie Saylor**

**20th James & Jean Christian**

**22th Bill & Chris Leware**

**27th Gordon & Sue Roeglin**

**29th Bill & Becky Binneveld**

**31st Bill & Robin Cauthen**

**Bob & Rita Clements**





# ST. JAMES PRAYER LIST



The St. James Prayer List is organized into two sections: A **Short-term list** and a **Three-Month List**. Names are initially placed on the short -term list for three weeks, after which they are moved to the three-month list. At the end of the three -month period, names will be removed unless a request is make for them to remain. Please call the church office if you would like to place someone on the Prayer List. (352) 787-1981 / [office@stjames-leesburg.org](mailto:office@stjames-leesburg.org)

## Short Term ~ 3 Weeks

|                          |                  |                         |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Van Galyon</b>        | <b>June 28th</b> | <b>Kaite Gailbreath</b> | <b>June 18th</b> |
| <b>Cynthia Sharer</b>    | <b>June 25th</b> | <b>Ann Cholewa</b>      | <b>June 18th</b> |
| <b>Dott Vedder</b>       | <b>June 23rd</b> | <b>Barbara Morgan</b>   | <b>June 18th</b> |
| <b>Jim Slovik</b>        | <b>June 23rd</b> | <b>Rita Clements</b>    | <b>June 17th</b> |
| <b>Andrew Granchalek</b> | <b>June 23rd</b> |                         |                  |

## 3 Months

|                        |                  |                          |                 |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Barbara Morgan</b>  | <b>June 17th</b> | <b>Martha Biby</b>       | <b>May 28th</b> |
| <b>Rita Clements</b>   | <b>June 16th</b> | <b>James Kaley</b>       | <b>May 26th</b> |
| <b>Meredith Kirste</b> | <b>June 16th</b> | <b>Pat Kelly</b>         | <b>May 26th</b> |
| <b>Court Hintze</b>    | <b>June 10th</b> | <b>Dot Vedder</b>        | <b>May 13th</b> |
| <b>Pat Dechello</b>    | <b>June 10th</b> | <b>Jena Rae Formella</b> | <b>May 13th</b> |
| <b>Raychel Black</b>   | <b>June 9th</b>  | <b>Joe Branham</b>       | <b>May 13th</b> |
| <b>Steve Rubini</b>    | <b>June 8th</b>  | <b>Andy Hall</b>         | <b>May 6th</b>  |
| <b>Charlene Smigel</b> | <b>June 8th</b>  | <b>Zack Hall</b>         | <b>May 6th</b>  |
| <b>Alex Biby</b>       | <b>May 28th</b>  |                          |                 |

# ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Sunday Services:

8:00 a.m. (Rite 1) & 10:15 a.m. (Rite II)

## Healing & Anointing Service:

Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Church Office Phone: (352) 787-1981 / Email: [office@stjames-leesburg.org](mailto:office@stjames-leesburg.org)

Please visit our website at: [www.stjames-leesburg.org](http://www.stjames-leesburg.org)

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### CLERGY & STAFF

|                                                                                                                |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Rev'd Thomas Trees,                                                                                            | Rector |
| Cell & Email - (352)-643-1182 / <a href="mailto:frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org">frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org</a> |        |

|                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Rev'd Dr. Sebastiana Springmann | Priest Associate                |
| Rev'd Art Hollows,              | Deacon                          |
| Victoria Mymudes                | Parish Secretary                |
| John Wilson                     | Parish Organist/Choir Director  |
| Elizabeth Williams              | Youth Ministry & Choir Director |
| Wylie Hill                      | Sexton                          |

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### VESTRY

(Senior Warden) Cherie Knowles, (Junior Warden) Bert Sofield,  
(Treasurer) Nigel Bailey

**Members:** Bill Binneveld, Claire Meade, Rita Clements,  
Tony Cobb, Susan Cyrus, Sean Lahey, Nancy Moran, Stuart Mowatt,  
& Dee Saylor.

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### OUR MISSION

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

