

Staff Directory

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Rev. Max Vincent

Business Administrator

Shannan Wassel

Associate Pastor

Rev. AnnaKate Rawles

Office Coordinator

Austin Jackson

Director of Activities Ministry

Meredith Howell

Facilities Manager

Bobby Niles

Director of Children's Ministry

Meredith Howell

Preschool Director

Susan Viers

Director of Music Ministry

Michael Ervin

Nursery Coordinator

Susannah Withers

Director of Children's Music

Marcela Meeks

Organist

Dr. Craig Smith

Director of Youth Ministry

Rev. C.J. Lord

Church Office

404.261.3121

Hours M-Th 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

F 8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Preschool Office

404.237.7354

Hours 8:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.



Chapel Notes

JANUARY 2021

Wesley Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

John Wesley adapted this prayer from the Puritan tradition that was so important to his parents, Samuel and Suzannah, and life in the Epworth rectory. It informed his theology and preaching. He expected the people called "Methodists" to pray this prayer at the beginning of each new year as a way of remembering and renewing their baptismal covenant.

The Covenant Prayer describes missional life devoted to following Jesus and serving as Christ's representative in the world he loves and is working to redeem. It tells us that being a Christian is more a way of life than a system of beliefs. The Covenant Prayer describes the Jesus way of self-giving and self-emptying love.

As we begin the year 2021, may we be resolved to be at God's disposal, ready to be used in God's work of redemption in whatever ways are pleasing to God.

Peace,
Max

Announcements



Red Cross Blood Drive on January 23, 10 am- 3 pm—We had a great response in October from our congregation and the community, and we are hoping for another successful drive to kick-off 2021. The Red Cross has indicated the hospitals are still in desperate need of blood. As in October, all donations will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies. Prize announcements to come later! Sign-up times are available NOW! Go to redcrossblood.org and search for St James UMC-Atlanta, under zip code 30342, January 23, 2021.

Please help spread the word! We look forward to seeing you in January, and thank you for helping to save lives!

Midday Meditations are turning into Midweek Meditations—

Connecting the congregation is even more important now than it has ever been. For the last 10 months, you have received a Midday Meditation in your inbox every weekday. As we begin this new year we will transition to a Midweek Meditation that will come once a week to your inbox and Facebook. Moving to once a week instead of daily will allow us to focus on Lenten Devotionals during Lent and other publications.

We will also suspend the use of our dial-in system to hear midday meditations. Starting this Tuesday you can call in to our dial-in system to hear Sunday's sermon. Call 404-400-8794 to hear!

Celebrations & Concerns

Anne Baron—Home
Sandra Bottoms—Lenbrook, Memory Care
Trisha Evans— Stewart House (Carrollton)
Larry Stallings— Home
Ann Wadley—Lenbrook
Tink Trexler

We at St. James extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of Jan Hayes who died November 26, 2020.

A memorial service was held Saturday, December 12, 2020, at Rose Hill Cemetery in Ashburn, GA.

We at St. James extend our Christian love and sympathy to Justin Pratt on the death of his mother, Beverlyn Pratt, who died December 17, 2020.

A funeral service was held on December 21, 2020 at Flora Hills Memorial Garden in Lawrenceville, GA.

We at St. James extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family of George Rogers who died Sunday, December 20, 2020. A memorial service was held Wednesday, December 30, 2021, at St James United Methodist.

Calendar

Sunday

Zoom Children's Sunday School

9:00 a.m.

Zoom Sunday School

9:45 a.m.

Virtual Worship Service

11:00 a.m.

Mondays

Tuesdays

Wednesdays

Wednesday Pastoral Study

10:00 a.m.

Chancel Choir

7:30 p.m.

Thursdays

Fridays

Saturday

Announcements



2021 Lenten Devotional Booklet—Doesn't it seem like just yesterday, or in some ways maybe 100 years ago, that we were talking about Lent and getting ready for Easter in 2020? None of us had any idea what was on the horizon, let alone that it would be another year before we could see a "light at the end of the tunnel." Ash Wednesday in 2021 is February 17, so we wanted you to have plenty of time to start thinking about what you might like to share as a devotion for our annual Lenten Devotional booklet this year. The theme is: Our Journey Toward Lent - Walking with Christ, our Guiding Light. Especially this past year, most of us have had to search for the light and rely on a strength greater than our own. **Submissions of 325 words or less are due no later than February 5th.** Please email to: jagallagher@bellsouth.net Adding a scripture reference and/or prayer is appreciated, but not required! We're looking forward to hearing your story of hope for this season of Lent. "God's grace is not the light at the end of the tunnel. It's the light that guides us through it."

Announcements



Meals for those experiencing food insecurity— Each year St James participates in preparing and serving food on Martin Luther King Jr Weekend. This year we will continue that tradition, but it will look a little different. Bagged meals will be taken to Trinity Kitchen to be given out to those who are experiencing food insecurity. If you would like to contribute to this important mission you can bring any of the following food items to the basket outside of the office by January 13th or bring them with you to drive-in worship on January 17th.

Non-Perishable food items needed:

- Pop top can or bagged tuna fish
- Pop top can meats (Vienna sausage, chicken, etc)
- Pop top or plastic bowls of fruit
- Packets of peanut butter or cheese crackers
- Granola Bars or Protein Bars

Upcoming Worship



January 2021 Series | Follow Me

January 3 **Epiphany Sunday**

Matthew 2:1-12

"And They Were Overwhelmed"

January 10 **Baptism of the Lord**

Mark 1:4-11

"Tearing the Heavens"

January 17 **Second Sunday After Epiphany**

John 1:43-51

"Anything Good?"

January 24 **Third Sunday After Epiphany**

Mark 1:14-20

"Follow Me"

January 31 **Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**

Mark 1:21-28

"What Does Jesus Have to Do with Us?"

Giving Cont'd

In Memory Of George Rogers

Frank & Marilyn Humphreys

Walter & Susan Johnson

(Music Fund)

Jim & Cynthia Lyon

Alvin Townley Jr

(Music Fund)

Elizabeth Abston

(Music Fund)

Bruce & Diane MacEwen

(Music Fund)

In Memory Of Bill Talley

Frank & Marilyn Humphreys

In Honor Of Michael Ervin

Leon & Janet Folsom

In Honor Of Anne Barron

George & Kay Rogers

In Honor Of Prayer Group

Jim & Cynthia Lyon

In Honor Of Angels of the Morning Prayer Group

Cliff and Sylvia Bates

Online Sermons

Sermons are available at: www.stjamesatlanta.org/resources/past-services/ and are posted on our **YouTube Page** and in **Our App** for those who missed worship or wish to see a sermon again.

Announcements

Free COVID-19 Testing

January 2, 2021

10:00AM - 4:00PM

St. James United Methodist Church

4400 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd,
Atlanta, GA 30342 (Drive-Thru Only)
(Enter lot off of Loridans Dr.)

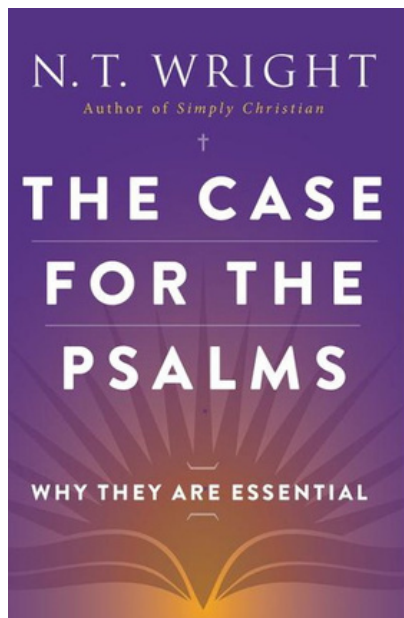
Scan To Register Or Visit:
covid19.dph.ga.gov



Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. However, tests are administered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Parental consent is required for patients under the age of 17.



Adult Education



Wednesday Pastoral Study—We will start a new book in January, *The Case For The Psalms* by N. T. Wright. Copies of the book are available in the church office for \$10. This study will meet via Zoom, Wednesdays at 10 am.

Schedule:

- January 13: Chapters 1 & 2
- January 20: Chapter 3
- January 27: Chapters 4 & 5
- February 3: Chapter 6 & Afterword

Please email Pastor Max if you plan to participate at:

mvincent@stjamesatlanta.org

Music



Thank You—Our music ministry would like to thank all for their support of our hard work for our Christmas Eve services. Each year around this time, we have a small party to celebrate a successful holiday season. This year, our Chancel Choir gathered on Zoom to exchange gifts and share a meal together (pictured above). We look forward to sharing in ministry with you in the new year.

Giving

In Memory Of Bill Chesnut

Reid Baker III
Frank & Marilyn Humphreys
Doug & Mollie Robbins
United Fidelity Class

In Memory Of Gloria Denny

Joe & Jackie Brown

In Memory Of Gene Frazier

Frank & Marilyn Humphreys

In Memory Of Jan Hayes

Joe & Jackie Brown
Margie Chappell
Dan Coursey
Bunny Davidson
Eric Eidbo
Brooks & Whitney Gregory
Sara Johnson
Guy & Karen Powell
Bruce & Terri Seeber
John & Helen Simmons
Joyce Snyder
Robert Topping
Tom & Nancy Vice
Jo Ann West
Laura McLemore
(Choral Scholar Fund)
Jim & Cynthia Lyon
(Choral Scholar Fund)
Kent & Maxine Watkins
(Christmas Card Fund)
Jim Costlow & Leila Hartley
(Music Fund)
Bruce & Diane MacEwen
(Memorial Garden)

Christmas Card Contributors



FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT ST JAMES

Merry Christmas

May your season be filled with hope,
peace, joy, love, and light of Christ.

CHRISTMAS CARD CONTRIBUTORS

Elizabeth Abston	Jay & Michelle Ivy- Knudsen
Cliff & Sylvia Bates	Bernard Kears
Paul & Barbara Bonapfel	Bruce & Diane MacEwen
Gene & Pat Bowles	Clark, Rhett,
David & Anne Boyd	Katie & Rachel McGehee
Jim Branan & Margaret Lathan	Fred & Jean Mistretta
Ciaran & Patti Brennan	Andy & Emily Moon
Joe & Jackie Brown	George & Libba Pickett
Tom & Mary Cartwright	Guy & Karen Powell
Leon & Janet Folsom	George & Kay Rogers
Sheldon & Beth Fortinberry	Craig Smith
Eva Frink	Fred & Debbie Tuck
Jerry & Janice Gallagher	Powell & Fenelia Turner
Helen Hinson	Kent & Maxine Watkins
Frank & Marilyn Humphreys	Jo Ann West

Family Ministry

St. James Children's Ministry 2020 Update—This year has been a year of trying new things! No where is this more true than in our St James family ministries. From virtual Easter egg hunts and Zoom VBS to Online Youth Christmas Party the family ministry team has worked to make meaningful connections and ministry happen. This year I am extra grateful to work alongside of Meredith and C.J., as well as all our Sunday school teachers, leaders, counselors, volunteers, and parents. This year was different for sure, but with all of you and your support we've have continued to find ways to connect our children and youth to one another and to God.

As we begin a new year and reflect on all of the things that we have learned along the way in 2020, it is nice to think about the new ways that we have seen our St. James community exemplifying the values that our Lord holds so dear. Through the lens of love, we witnessed folks reimagining the ways that they connect with each other, as they printed photos of beloved St. James families and stuffed the photos in eggs for an at-home Easter egg hunt. Celebrating the gift of technology, we gathered around our screens to give praise for the fact that He is risen. Week after week, children met staff and volunteers for Sunday school Zoom to learn more about a loving God that certainly exists outside the church walls. For a week in July, parents made special plans to assist their children in a virtual VBS that reminded us how God's creation is for all people and creatures. As we patiently awaited improved Covid numbers, we celebrated back-to-school with a drive through parade and eventually began to meet in person for a volunteer-led St. James Hiking club. As the point person for this group, Matti Knight led St. James friends along new and fun family-friendly hikes around the Atlanta area. Monthly Worship Readiness meetings also began in-person with Jennifer Entrekin teaching an outdoor, masked, and social distanced lesson on prayer beads. Our usual Trunk or Treat was reimagined and became a walk-through Trick or Treating event that relied on over 20 volunteers and welcomed countless children in a safe, fun and festive way.

Family Ministry Cont'd

We kicked off Advent with an outdoor family Advent Wreath making event in the parking lot, and Children's Zoom Sunday School continued on to a series of valuable Advent lessons through the leadership of staff and devoted volunteers Jim & Nancy Sutterfield, Brenda Holmes, and Mary Griessman. Families once again gathered safely in-person to witness the Live Nativity presented by some of our St. James children and families, who also continued to celebrate the season with their at-home Advent kits. Though Christmas Eve was different this year, families joyfully made the adjustment by volunteering to participate in a virtual Children's Christmas Eve Service that aired at Noon on Christmas Eve. Looking back, though we may not have had many opportunities to share the same physical space, we are thankful that the St. James community has consistently taken the chance to be present in our children's faith journey. Through words and actions, adults communicated to the children that, though adversity is inevitable in life, we can find ways to adjust our process for giving and receiving the love of Christ. Thank you, St. James, for being the church no matter where that "being" takes shape. Happy 2021, and may God bless you!

Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School — Please join us as we begin a new Sunday School segment for children in 2021! Each Sunday, beginning January 10, meet us over Zoom at 9 am. We would love to "see" you! For more info, email childrensministry@stjamesatlanta.org

Worship Readiness for First and Second Graders— Please plan for your 1st or 2nd grader to attend the first Worship Readiness of 2021! Mark your calendar for January 21st. To sign up, please visit our Sign Up Genius:

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/30e0b4aaeac28a4fe3-20201>

Youth



Important Dates—

- Youth Sunday School resumes on January 10th
- Confirmation classes resume on January 24th
- Sunday Night Youth Group resumes on January 10th

As of right now, all scheduled youth programming events will remain virtual!

Looking Back on 2020— At our Youth Christmas Party in December (See Picture Above), one of our icebreaker questions was "what did you gain from 2020, that you are excited to take into 2021." Many of the students responded with answers such as patience, new friends, gratitude for family time, prioritizing those who matter most, etc. Personally, I am so grateful for all that the student ministries at St. James UMC has done and come through over the past year. During our short time of in-person and socially distanced events, we were averaging more numbers of students per event than we were before the pandemic. Between Confirmation, Sunday School, and Sunday Evening Youth Group, the Student Ministries at St. James UMC have been impacting about 30 students per week. This is incredible, and each of these students are growing closer to one another and growing stronger in their faith. I am so grateful for all that the Student Ministries has done in 2020, and I am definitely excited to bring it all in to 2021! Happy New Year!

-Rev. C.J. Lord
Youth Minister