Dear friends,

It probably doesn’t surprise you to learn that we live in a neighborhood filled with people who like to get stuff done. Whether it’s in the classroom or on the playing field, at work, volunteering or at home, there are quite a few achievers among us. Garrison Keillor’s famous line about Lake Wobegon comes to mind: this neighborhood can sometimes feel like a place where all the women are strong, the men are good-looking, and all the children are above average. Excellence has become, for many, an almost religious devotion.

Earlier this year, at one of our weekly Tuesday meetings to discuss and plan Christian formation at St. James’, the three of us were talking about what “excellence” might look like in our space and in this context. We talked about thriving programs where people of all ages feel safe to explore and grow. We talked about discipleship, and ever-deepening commitment to praying, working, and giving for the Kingdom of God. And then finally Vicki excitedly blurted out, “I just want everyone to know, and to love, and to follow Jesus!”

Sometimes we make things more complicated than they need to be. The Christian life is about always seeking to know Jesus more truly, and to love Jesus more passionately, and to follow Jesus more faithfully. It’s to have a relationship with him that actually changes the way we live our day-to-day lives. Our prayer for each and every St. James’ parishioner this year is that we would come to know, love, and follow Jesus better. It really doesn’t get more excellent than that!

In Christ,
The Rev. Ryan Fleenor, Vicar
Vicki Hall, Director of Children’s & Family Ministries
Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

The Christian life is about always seeking to know Jesus more truly, and to love Jesus more passionately...
**This Week**

* Special this week

**Learn more at stjames.org/calendar**

**Monday, September 16**  
*Matthew 4:1-11*

- Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
- Caregivers Playgroup (0-36 months) 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Evening Prayer 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- Lectio Divina 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 17**  
*Matthew 4:12-17*

- Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
- Tuesday Lunch Program 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 3-5 year old Playgroup 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.
- *Cherub Choir rehearsal resumes* 3:45 - 4:15 p.m.
- *Junior Choir rehearsal resumes* 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Prayer 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- Centering Prayer 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Canterbury Choir rehearsal 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 18**  
*Matthew 4:18-25*

- Holy Eucharist 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
- Wednesday Bible Study 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
- 0-12 month Playgroup 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Centering Prayer 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.
- Evening Prayer 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday, September 19**  
*Matthew 5:1-10*

- Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
- 12-24 month Playgroup 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Bible Stories & Legos 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
- We Love to Sing 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
- *Primary Choir rehearsal resumes* 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
- Thursdays for Families 4:45 - 6:00 p.m.
- Evening Prayer 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- Education for Ministry 6:30 - 8:45 p.m.
- *Revive group begins* 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Friday, September 20**  
*Matthew 5:11-16*

- *Holy Cross Monastery Retreat begins* 7:00 - 8:00 a.m.
- Men’s Group 8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
- 24-36 month Playgroup 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Centering Prayer 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.
- Friday Dinner Program 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Evening Prayer 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

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**This week’s Bible Memorization verse**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
—Psalm 51:1-11

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**Next Sunday: Sept. 22**

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
*Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13*

- **8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**  
  Homily by the Rev. Ryan Fleenor, Vicar.

- **9:10 a.m. Family Eucharist**  
  Sermon by the Rev. Brenda Husson, Rector. The Canterbury, Junior, and Youth Choirs offer music by William Dawson and John Rutter.

- **11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist**  
  Sermon by the Rev. Ryan Fleenor, Vicar. The Compostela Choir offers music by Hugo Distler and Edward C. Bairstow.

- **6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion**  
  Homily by the Rev. Eva Suarez, Associate Rector. Music for piano and oboe.

**Youth Prayer Workshop**  
**10:15 - 11:00 a.m.**

Middle, High, and Confirmation groups will learn about personal prayer and meditation practices in the Christian tradition. Contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis for more information.

**The Sunday Forum**  
**10:30 - 11:00 a.m.**

The Rev. Ryan Fleenor will kick off our fall series on “Beloved Community,” exploring the Biblical and theological foundations of what it means to be a Beloved Community.

**St. James’ 101 Newcomers Brunch**  
**10:30 - 11:00 a.m.**

Are you “new” to St. James? Learn more about membership here at an informal brunch with clergy and parishioners. Please contact the Rev. Zack Thompson to learn more.

**Shelter Ministry Open House**  
**1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

Current and prospective shelter volunteers are invited to this fun, informative open house. Learn more about what it takes to make our overnight shelter run! Contact Hannah Minton to learn more.

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**Can we count you “in”??**

We want every parishioner to be “all in” as we offer our best gifts for God’s work and our own growth in faith. When everyone is committed, we count more than 500 households that set aside a portion of their income for God’s work through St. James’. More than 400 households have made financial commitments for 2019 so far! If you haven’t done so, please visit stjames.org/2019commitment to make a commitment or stjames.org/give to set up a recurring weekly or monthly gift.
Name tags help us to know each other
New name tags are available outside Sunderland Hall. If your name does not appear, please let Grace Beacham or the Rev Zack Thompson know.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Wednesdays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. The Wednesday Bible Study will explore the Epistle of James this fall, led by the Rev. Ryan Fleenor. Newcomers are always invited to come join this lively (and at time raucous!) weekly Bible study. No preparation necessary; all are welcome.

A few spots left! Holy Cross Retreat September 20 - 22 Get away for a weekend retreat on the theme of “Community at Prayer: The Daily Office and the Rule of St. Benedict.” Matthew Leacyraft will lead; please reach out for more information.

Playgroup Welcome Coffee Tues. Sept. 24, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. If you have a child who is 0-36 months old, please come meet other parents of young children and learn about our Playgroups and other programs specifically for this age! Contact Vicki Hall to learn more.

St. Jamesians Kick-off at the Met Fri. Sept. 27, 6:30 p.m. Join Young Adults from St. James’ for a well-beloved September tradition! Meet on the steps of the Met and look for folks wearing red—you’ll know it’s us! RSVP to Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis.

5 - 12th Grade Game Night Sat. Sept. 28, 5:30 p.m. Youth are invited to hang out, watch some sports, enjoy dinner and activities such as ping-pong, board games, and card games. Please contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis for questions or to RSVP.

Homeless Shelter Re-opens September 30 St. James’ overnight shelter will re-open Monday through Thursday nights. If you would like to get involved with this vital ministry, please contact Hannah Minton.

Global Mission Fair Sat. Oct. 12, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The 4th Annual Global Mission Fair will offer a panel on “The Way of Love in Christian Ministry” and lunch discussions on ministries around the world. Learn more and register at www.dioceseny.org/ednyevent/global-mission-fair.

Save the Date: Davis’s 20th Anniversary Mon. Oct. 28, 6:30 p.m. Please join us in Coburn Hall to celebrate Davis Wortman’s 20th Anniversary as Organist & Music Director of St. James’ Church, with music by the Ike Sturm Trio. Visit stjames.org/hymnals to make a gift in honor of Davis.

Donate! Second Time Around thrift sale Friday, November 8 Autumn Cleaning? Designer clothing, shoes, and jewelry are needed for our fall sale, as well as regular donations of gently-used clothing, accessories, and shoes for men, women and children, bric-a-brac, housewares, linens, art & collectibles. All proceeds from the thrift sales go to the St. James’ Grants which help those in need in New York City. Contact Grace for more details or to volunteer.

Music for Children & Youth
Being a chorister at St. James’ is a wonderful way to experience music across the centuries, reinforce faith-based formation, and participate in church! For information, contact Loraine Enlow.

Prayer List

Thanks be to God

• for the gifts of the summer season, and for the safe travels of all our parishioners who are returning from time away.
• for the homecoming of our parish, and for the opportunity to grow together as we seek to follow in the way of Jesus Christ.
• for the generosity of parishioners who have made financial commitments for 2019; and for all who share in the financial support of the parish.

Your prayers are requested

• for St. James’ in this season after Pentecost, that the Holy Spirit would move powerfully in our lives and through our ministries.
• for members and friends of the parish who are sick, sorrowful, or in any kind of trouble: Donald, Henry, David, Terry & Mary Jane, Elona, Cynthia, Pam, Caroline & Michael, Walterene, James Edward, Joan, Lois, Brian, Michael, Eula Mae, Carol, Lilly, Laura, Ann & Ben, Bob, Chris, Amanda, Victor, Valli, Jeanette, Alice, Iris, Sophie, Maria & her parents, Frank, Lisa, Carmen, Milton, Alice Mary, Izabel, Rick, Peter & Dianne, Ben, Bill, John, the Kirkpatrick family, Tom, Douglas, Pelham, Anthony, Nancy, Zoy, Nadine, Isabelle & Viviane, Tracey, Jeanette, Dorothy, Dorothy, Elnora, Harriet, Alex, Christopher, Margot, James, Peggy, Katharine, Casey, John & Catherine, Ruth, Sandy, Dick, John, George, Peter, Jose, Laura, Pam, Barb, Craig, Megan, Grace, Matthew, Isabel, Margaret, Barbara, MaryAnn, Bill, Dale, Carol Sue, Robert, Jonathan, Ben, Bryce, James, Elena, Kelly, Mackenzie, Jason, Carter, Angelo, Kathryn, Teresa, Ben & Juergen, Liam, Ann, Emily, Andrew, Charlie, John, Monique, Cilla, Rich, Janet, Julie, Behida, Ray, John, Frank, Karen & Craig, Gary, Aaron & family, Anita, Dwan, Caris & Blake, Charlotte, Peter, Anne, Jason, Vicky, Bill, Dorothy, Peg, Chase, Kimberly, Alice, Claude, Matthew, John, Blake & Pamela, Gabrielle, Pamela, Paula, Elena, Allison, Jane & Peter, Emily, Pat, Robert, Jorge, Brad, Ryan and the Malosh family, Karen, Olivia, Grace, Kim, Kenneth, Philip, Drew, Taylor, and Layla, Justin & Jennifer, Joseph (JP), Florence, Phyllis, Ivan, Gene, Suzanne, Elizabeth, Thomas, Lorraine, Francis, Mary Beth, Annette, Terence, Caroline, Dan, Tony, Ward, Sophie, Sharon, Nate, Jim, Richard, Joseph, Ann, Darby, Susan, Mary, Armen, Vicki, Jimmy, Tom, Beth, Elizabeth, Christine, Rafa, Emily, Alexander, Christopher, Lulu, Karen, Susan, Damianus, Josephine, Alex, Ann, Liz, Sam, Tommy, Jeremy, Ruth and John, John’s family, Rosalyn, Suzanna, Sebastian, Nico, Lola, Susan, Lynda, and Joseph.
• for the Order of the Holy Cross, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
• for the Anglican Church of Tanzania, its ministries and people, and the Most Rev. Dr Mainobo Mndolwa, Archbishop of Tanzania & Bishop of Tanga, according to the Anglican cycle of prayer.
• for our work as stewards of God’s creation, that we may use the earth’s resources rightly in the service of others, and be mindful of our connection to all living things.
• for the United States of America, for wisdom and grace for our leaders in the exercise of their duties, that the rights and dignity of all may be protected, and our nation be a blessing to other nations of the earth.
• for justice and peace in this city and nation; for those who serve the common good in law enforcement and the courts; and for the victims of racism, injustice, and intolerance.
• for all who are persecuted for their faith, including Christians in the Middle East; for all refugees and all who welcome and serve those in need.
• for members and friends of the parish serving in the Armed Forces, in the Diplomatic Corps, and with the U.N.: Tracy, Christian, Mads, Michael, Mark.

We commend to God’s never-failing care

• victims of war and violence throughout the world, including all victims of terrorism; all migrants and refugees who have died fleeing danger; and all those killed in the military service of our nation.
• all whom we love but see no more, including Carmen Dugdale, Robert Crowley Jr., Ad Wiernet, Jr., Martha Piwonka, and Josiah Cyrus Rosado.
The Vestry

Jennifer Charrington, Sr. Warden · Missy Condo, Jr. Warden
Sue Bennett
Hugh Boston
Gerlinde Brixius
Richard Brown
Tristan Bultman
Stephen de Francesco
Dolly Geary
Susanna Guflay
Elizabeth Littlejohn
Marcy Sendax
Bob Strinon
Anne Strassner
Mary Malhotra,
Vestry Officer for Stewardship
Annika Gottfrid,
Youth Representative

The Clergy & Lay Staff

St. James’ Church is a community that actively shares the love of Jesus Christ with each other, our city and the world.

Worship

SUNDAYS
8:00 a.m. · Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
9:10 a.m. · Family Eucharist
11:15 a.m. · Choral Eucharist
6:00 p.m. · Candlelight Communion

WEEKDAYS
M, T, Th, F 8:00 a.m. · Morning Prayer
Wed. 8:00 a.m. · Holy Eucharist
Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m. · Evening Prayer

CENTERING PRAYER
Tue. 6:00 p.m.
Wed. 12:00 p.m.
Fri. 12:00 p.m.
Open for prayer and meditation
Sunday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Visit Us

PARISH HOUSE HOURS
Mon. - Fri. · 9:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesdays · 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

ST. JAMES’ CHURCH
865 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK, NY 10021

To reach any of us during the week, or in case of pastoral emergency at any time, call 212-774-4200.

STJAMES.ORG

St. James’ is an Episcopal Church, a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion.