

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector:** Barbara Albright

**Communion Assistant:** Samantha Hillegass

**Ushers:** Brad Baker, Chip Harward,  
Taylor Pruette, Al Pieschel, Jon Miller

**Greeter:** Amy Griffith

**Building Supervisor:** Tommy Propst

**PRAYER LIST**

Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Patsy Black; Patrick Bryn (son of Kirby & Sondra Bryn); Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Noah Clifton; Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Catherine Durst (daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Phyllis Freeman (Mother of Fonda Shumate); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Ginger Gibbs (Friend of Jeff & Deedee Gilbert); Jeff Gilbert; Nancy Haney (loved one of Betsy Ballard); Ryan Hardister (son of Bill & Reggie Hardister); Maureen Hollmeyer; The Hopkins Family; Hunter Huss; Mary Frances Johnson (cousin of Francie Davis); Karen Johnston (friend of Judy Benz); Mary Anne Lanahan (Aunt of Francie Davis); Ruth Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); John Ledford (brother of Deb Black); Leonard "Buddy" McEachern; Jason Matthews; Barbara Merrell; Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Dave Olsen (friend of Patsy Black); Mason Overby; Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Becky Phillips; Al Pieschel; Lori Pittard; Corinne Robbins; Lori Ruff (mother of Christine Ruff); Jessica Seeley (cousin of Christine Ruff); Ruby Tyer (niece of Beth Huss' friend).

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God in honor of all fathers by Nancy Faggart.

To assist in your offering  
Secure Online Giving



Open Camera – Scan QR Code  
Thank you for supporting St. James

**The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
June 21, 2026**

**The Holy Communion  
10:00am**



**St. James Lutheran Church  
104 Union Street South  
PO Box 684  
Concord, North Carolina 28026  
704-786-0166  
www.sjnc.net  
Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Pastor**

## Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

Maybe you need forgiveness, or maybe you need to forgive ... Maybe you're tired and you need a little space to breathe ... Maybe you're trying church for the first time, or maybe you're trying church for the last time... Maybe you've spent your whole life wondering if God really loves you... Maybe you're lonely... Maybe you're sick... Maybe you came here looking for a miracle... Maybe you came here looking for another church but got disoriented and came here instead, and now it's too late to get up and walk out... Maybe, with God, there are no accidents... Maybe, with God, there is hope and healing and miraculous companionship... Maybe, with God, there is space to breathe and forgiveness on top of forgiveness... Maybe, with God, there is love... Maybe, with God here in our midst, we will hear those words that still split open the heavens, "You are my son! You are my daughter! You are my beloved. You. In you I am well pleased!" Maybe this is why we gather together, week after week after week, here at St. James.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this place - not just by the Saints at St. James, but by the God who revealed himself in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our brother, and our friend.

Welcome to St. James.

If you are comfortable doing so, please introduce yourself to Pastor Bill. If you have visited with us a number of times and think you might want to "make it official," please speak to Pastor Bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to the person next to you or to an usher.

Restrooms are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A nursery is available for children up to and including five years of age on the first floor of the education building. An usher will be happy to help you find them.

If you're visiting or if you have been here for 99 years (and are willing to do so), please sign a pew pad.

*Let us know you visited!*



*Scan to connect!*

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

June 21 – Joann Bratton

June 22 – Fuller Beasley

June 23 – Samuel Haberman, Ben McGuire

June 25 – Bill Hardister

June 26 – Wilson Propst, Jr.

June 27 – Phyllis Freeman

## CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday, June 21</b>	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
<b>Monday, June 22</b>	<i>My Father's House Meal Ministry</i>	
	10:30am	Quilting
<b>Saturday, June 27</b>	2:00pm	Meetup at Southern Strain
<b>Sunday, June 28</b>	<i>Sonshine Backpack Items Due</i>	
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship

## BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT...

Calling all our St. James faithful (and your friends). At **2pm on Saturday, June 27th**, take a break from the summer sun and come to Southern Strain Brewery (165 Brumley Ave). Gather around a table with your fellow St. James Saints, enjoy a cold beverage (adult or otherwise) and delight in a chatting up your neighbor.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Rising 6th–8th grade youth are invited to serve with The Salvation Army this summer by helping pack fresh food boxes for families in need and earn service hours.

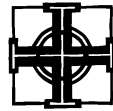
Volunteers serve Thursdays in June and July, 12:00–2:30 p.m., at The Salvation Army (216 Patterson Ave SE, Concord). Youth will sort, pack, and load food boxes alongside staff and St. James volunteers.

RSVP through SignupGenius and complete a volunteer form (available online or in the church office). Bring completed forms to Cheryl Webb. Questions? Call or text Cheryl at

832-275-8872.

RSVP:





**St James Lutheran Church:**  
*Growing in Christ through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service.*

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**



*Please silence your phones. Thank you.*

*When not printed, hymn harmonies may be found in the green LBW hymnal.*

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

*Please stand.*

**THE INVOCATION**

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENES**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Please sit or kneel, as able.  
 Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Most merciful God,  
**C** **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

**P** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen**

**THE ENTRANCE HYMN: #242 Let the Whole Creation Cry**

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"  
 2 War-riors fight - ing for the Lord, proph-ets burn - ing with his word,  
 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise him, our al - might - y king!"  
 those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song,  
 and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;

Praise him, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;  
 Kings of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;  
 from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:

sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.  
 all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"  
 "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

**THE APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** O God our defender, storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us all from unbelief; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord

**C** **Amen.**



*Please sit.*

**THE FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 20:7-13

O Lord, you have enticed me,  
 and I was enticed;  
 you have overpowered me,  
 and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughing-stock all day long;  
 everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup> For whenever I speak, I must cry out,  
 I must shout, 'Violence and destruction!'  
 For the word of the Lord has become for me  
 a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup> If I say, 'I will not mention him,  
 or speak any more in his name',  
 then within me there is something like a burning fire  
 shut up in my bones;  
 I am weary with holding it in,  
 and I cannot.

<sup>10</sup> For I hear many whispering:  
 'Terror is all around!  
 Denounce him! Let us denounce him!'  
 All my close friends  
 are watching for me to stumble.  
 'Perhaps he can be enticed,  
 and we can prevail against him,  
 and take our revenge on him.'

<sup>11</sup> But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior;  
 therefore my persecutors will stumble,

and they will not prevail.  
 They will be greatly shamed,  
 for they will not succeed.  
 Their eternal dishonour  
 will never be forgotten.  
<sup>12</sup> O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous,  
 you see the heart and the mind;  
 let me see your retribution upon them,  
 for to you I have committed my cause.  
<sup>13</sup> Sing to the Lord;  
 praise the Lord!  
 For he has delivered the life of the needy  
 from the hands of evildoers.

A The Word of the Lord.  
 C **Thanks be to God.**

**THE SECOND READING:** Romans 6:1b-11

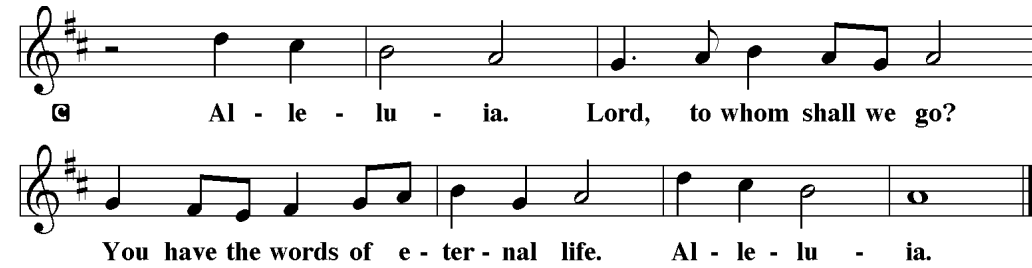
Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

A The Word of the Lord.  
 C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

**THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>25</sup> ‘A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup> ‘So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup> What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> ‘Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> ‘Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

<sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father,  
 and a daughter against her mother,  
 and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

<sup>36</sup> and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

<sup>37</sup> Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

P The Gospel of the Lord.  
C Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please sit.*

## THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

*Please stand.*

## THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #507 How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

## THE PRAYERS

A Let us pray for the Church, the world, and one another.

A Thank you, dear Father, for Jesus. We may trust him even when he brings not peace but a sword. Thank you for the severe mercy of death and resurrection; Law and Gospel; repentance and forgiveness. Thank you for entrusting your Kingdom and your Word to us, even though we often feel unequal to that trust! Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You established your Church as a school for mission to the world. Rekindle that missionary zeal throughout the Church. Let all Christians be eager witnesses to the love of Jesus. Free the Church from worldly preoccupations. Free it to announce and share with the world the Gospel of salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fashion this congregation into a missionary outpost; a school for discipleship; a hotbed of generous service; and a temple resounding with your praise. Teach us

simple ways of sharing your love with everyone we meet; and give us the strength and will to do them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

There is such a great need for pastors, evangelists, and disciple-makers! We know the world is starving for the living bread of your Word. Help us to nurture faith, help fellow believers to discern God's call to ministry, and support them in every way possible as they respond to his gracious invitation. And if others say to us, "Perhaps you are the one God is calling," help us to say, "Here I am, Lord."

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill the leaders of nations, and everyone in positions of authority, with righteousness, wisdom, and integrity. Help us to live, insofar as it's up to us, at peace with our neighbors, even when we're annoyed with them. Help us to care for one another, even when we're stressed out and stretched thin. And help us to forgive each other, even when that seems hard. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, by your Name all fatherhood is blessed. Shape all fathers, foster fathers, uncles, grampas, and mentors to reflect your strength, wisdom, and love. Heal fractured relationships between dads and their children. Comfort those who can't be fathers, have lost a child, or who grieve the absence of a good dad in their lives. Be their dear Father, now and always. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring health and gladness to all whose lives are shadowed by pain, suffering or sorrow. Be their light and life, their guide and joy. Raise them up from the dark valleys in which they wander. Give compassion, gentleness, and patience to all who care for them. Shelter them always with your love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, we entrust our beloved dead into your care. Hold them in the palm of your hand. Keep us firm in faith and constant in affection. Command your holy angels to shield us from the Evil One's flaming darts. By the Cross of your beloved Son, lead us safely into your presence. There, with all whom you have

redeemed and raised up, grant that we may delight in praising your goodness and mercy forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

### THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*Please sit.*

### THE ANTHEM

### THE OFFERING

*Please stand.*

### THE OFFERTORY #564 "The Doxology"

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

### THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A Blessed are you,

C **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have**

made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen



### THE COMMUNION RITE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

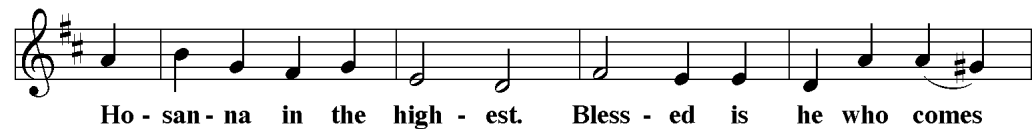
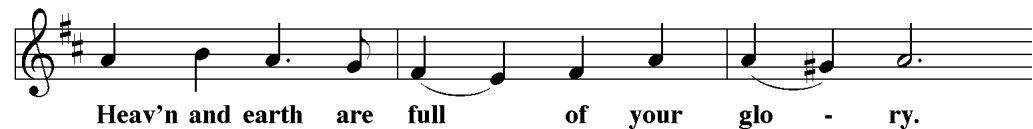
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times  
and in all places offer thanks and praise to you,  
O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.  
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him  
should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you  
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;**

and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please sit.*

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

A: We are told in the words “for you” and “for the forgiveness of sins.” By these words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

*-Luther’s Small Catechism Part V*

*Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you wish for the pastor to bring communion to you. Please advise an usher.*

*Please stand.*

### THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

### THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray,

A Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord

C Amen

*Silence for reflection.*



### THE BENEDICTION

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

### THE SENDING HYMN: #503 O Jesus, I Have Promised

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.  
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still  
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.  
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.  
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.  
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

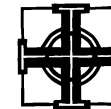
I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,  
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.  
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.  
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

**THE DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
C Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**



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**VBS PROPS NEEDED!**

VBS is looking for props for this year's Snowball Mountain Challenge theme!  
Needed: Sleds, skis, ski poles, inflatable snow tubes, snow discs/saucers, Christmas trees.  
Please label and drop items in the Flex Room. Items may be picked up after the final night of VBS on July 28. Contact Laura Overby or Lisa Folino with questions.

**A SUNDAE SUNDAY!**

Join us after worship on **Sunday, July 5**, as we celebrate 250 years of American independence with a sweet treat and fellowship!

Sunday, July 5 | 11:00 a.m. | Under back portico entrance

Enjoy Cabarrus Creamery ice cream with your St. James family.

**REGISTRATION OPEN FOR VBS!**

Vacation Bible School will be **Sunday, July 26–Tuesday, July 28**, beginning each evening at 5:30 p.m.

Please plan to register by the end of June to guarantee a t-shirt!

If you are available to volunteer, please check to make sure your *Safe Gatherings* background check is current. If you are a first-time volunteer, please email

[holly@sjnc.net](mailto:holly@sjnc.net) to begin the process.

❄️ This year's theme: Snowball Mountain Challenge! ❄️

Register: ➡️



**SONSHINE BACKPACK JUNE SUPPLY DRIVE**

Help provide weekend food for local children in need through our partnership with Sunshine Backpacks. Requested items include shelf-stable milk, cereal, mac & cheese, canned goods, granola bars, juice, popcorn, and pudding. Donations are due on the back kitchen counter by **June 28**. Questions? Contact Sylvia Corl or Gretchen Walker.