



"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship, and Service."

Week of Oct. 18, 2026

The Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction to Worship

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Watch the Live Stream:



[Download Bulletin](#)

The Week Ahead

Sunday, Oct. 18

Blessing of the Quilts Silent Auction 🧵

9:00 am Choir

9:00 am Adult Sunday School

9:30 am Children's Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

Monday, Oct. 19

10:30 am Quilting

Thursday, Oct. 22

6:30 pm Choir

7:30 pm Carols by Candlelight

Rehearsals

Sunday, Oct. 25

9:00 am Choir

9:00 am Adult Sunday School

9:30 am Children's Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

3:00 pm Trunk or Treat! 🎃

On the Calendar

Oct. 18 - *Blessing of the Quilts Silent Auction*

Oct. 25 - Trunk or Treat! 🎃

Nov. 1 - 7 *Salvation Army Meal Week*

Nov. 29 - Advent Activities

Dec. 1 - 27 *Sonshine Backpack Food Drive*

Dec. 6 - Bethlehem at the Farm

Dec. 7 - *My Father's House Meal Ministry*

Dec. 11 & 12 - Carols by Candlelight 🎵

Dec. 20 - Cocoa & Cookies: Children's Christmas Program

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services

[Online Calendar](#)

Sunday Ministries

LECTOR/INTERCESSOR

Oct. 18 Kim Haberman

VIDEOGRAPHER

Oct. 18 [Volunteer](#)

Oct. 25 Christine Ruff

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Oct. 18 Samantha Hillegass

Oct. 25 Margaret Garrison

ACOLYTES

Oct. 18 [Volunteer](#)

Oct. 25

GREETER

Oct. 18 Amy Griffith

Oct. 25 [Volunteer](#)

Oct. 25

USHERS

Brad Baker, Chip Harward, Taylor

Pruette, Al Pieschel, Jon Miller

BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Kenny Propst

ALTAR FLOWER

Oct. 18 Elizabeth Hurley

Oct. 25

Sign Up to Volunteer

[Lector](#)

[Communion
Assistant](#)

[Acolyte](#)

[Videographer](#)

[Altar Flowers](#)

Happy Birthday! 🎂

Oct. 18 - Laura Baker

Oct. 19 - Stephanie Harris

Oct. 20 - Katie King

Oct. 22 - Calen MacFarlane, Joyce Smith

Oct. 23 - John Eury, Nancy Faggart

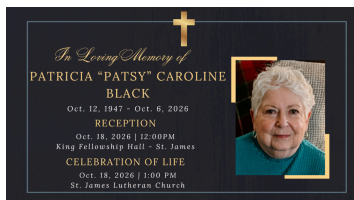
Oct. 24 - Naomi Lovelace

Announcements

Weekend Memorial & Celebration of Life Services



A Memorial Service for **Cheryl Marie Weyers** will be held this Saturday, October 17, at 11:00 a.m. Cheryl was the wife of Billy Sumner, who has been involved with the St. James choir over the years. [Click here to read her obituary.](#)



A Celebration of Life for **Patricia "Patsy" Caroline Black** will be held this Sunday, October 18 at 1:00 p.m. Patsy was a longtime member of the St. James choir community. [Click here to read her obituary.](#)

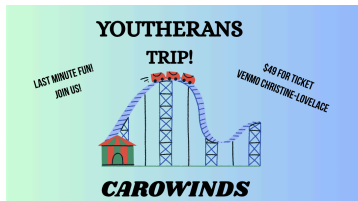


Meals on Mission Tomorrow

We could use **one more volunteer** for our meal packing mission with Lifeline Christian Mission tomorrow morning, Saturday, Oct. 17.

Meal packing begins at 10am at Cabarrus Arena.

[Click here for details and to signup.](#)



Last-Minute Youtherans Trip to Carowinds!

Attention Middle & High School Students!

Join us for our first-ever Youtherans Sunday School outing to Carowinds **this Sunday, October 18!**

We'll meet in the St. James parking lot immediately following worship and head to Carowinds for an afternoon of fun! We plan to leave Carowinds around 6 p.m. and return to St. James by 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$49 per person

Questions? Contact Christine Lovelace at 704-792-4938.



Mission Fund Q3 Report

At its September meeting, St. James' Mission Fund Committee welcomed Becca Kittel, who will complete Trevor Matthews' term. The committee is also seeking a new member for the next five-year rotating term as the current chair's term comes to an end.

The Committee approved grants for Concord Bible Teaching Association, Elder Orphan Care, and Present Age Ministries. They are also considering increasing the maximum grant award from \$2,000 to \$3,000 beginning in 2027, allowing the fund to make an even greater impact through local nonprofit partnerships.

The next meeting is December 1 at 5:45 p.m. in the parlor.



Blessing of the Quilts Silent Auction - This Sunday

This Sunday, Oct. 18, the quilts made by our St. James Quilting Ministry for Lutheran World Relief will be displayed in the sanctuary.

The Quilters will hold a silent auction for two quilts to help cover the cost of shipping and delivering the quilts to those in need. Each quilt costs approximately \$4 to transport, process, store, and deliver, whether near or far.

The two highest bidders will each have their choice of a quilt from the display to take home. The auction sheet will be available in the narthex for bidding on Sunday, Oct. 18.

This year, we have 89 quilts that will be sent to people in need around the world. Last year, Lutheran World Relief distributed more than \$20 million worth of quilts worldwide.

Thank you for supporting the Quilting Ministry and helping these quilts reach those who need them!



Fundraising Goal Met for CROP Hunger Walk

Final Tally:

Raised: \$1,602 | Goal: \$1,600

Thank you to everyone who walked, donated, and supported this year's efforts to help reach our fundraising goal.

[Click here to view our CROP Hunger Walk Team Page.](#)



A Note of Thanks

Sylvia Corl and Gretchen Walker would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Sonshine Backpack Ministry in September.



This week's lesson...

An Unlikely Deliverer - Judges 3:15-23, 30

We will be spending the next few weeks in the book of Judges. When we hear "judges", we think of officials adjudicating legal disputes; however, in the Bible, Judges were chiefly deliverers or saviors. In our last lesson, we studied the "Judges Cycle": duplicity on Israel's part, disaster, distress, and deliverance. This cycle will play out numerous times over the next 300-400 years!

Today we focus on Ehud, a left-handed judge, and Eglon, King of Moab, "a very fat man", (both attributes are important to the story) who oppresses the Israelites and are exacting tribute. God uses Ehud and his skills to bring about victory in a very unusual way to free the Israelites from their enemies and bring peace to the land once again! We'll discuss all the details this Sunday morning; hope to see you then!

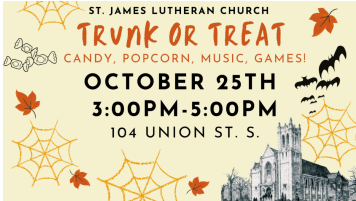
In Case You Missed It...



Collecting Candy for Trunk or Treat 🎃

We are collecting candy for Trunk or Treat on Oct. 25. If you would like to donate candy for the event, please place it in the **basket at the Portico**.

Reminders



🎃 Trunk or Treat! 🎃 - Oct. 25

Join us on **Sunday, October 25**, at our rear portico parking lot from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. for St. James' annual Trunk or Treat event! Enjoy candy, popcorn, music, and games!

If you are able to host a trunk or help run a game, please let us know!



Salvation Army Meal Week - Nov. 1 - 7

We're once again partnering with the Salvation Army Night Shelter to provide seven evening meals, and we'd love your help! Individuals or groups can sponsor a meal by preparing/purchasing and delivering 50 dinners to 216 Patterson Ave., Concord by **6:30 p.m. on their selected date, November 1st – 7th**. Staying to serve is appreciated but not required.

Meal expenses can be reimbursed through Jill Irvin. Contact Chip Popovici with questions.

[Click here to sign up!](#)



Volunteers Needed : Bethlehem at the Farm - Dec. 6

Step back in time to the night Jesus was born at Bethlehem at the Farm on **Sunday, December 6, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.** at the farm of Anita and Jeff Jones, just a few miles from St. James off Old Salisbury Road.

We're looking for about **50 volunteers** from our congregation to help create this immersive Christmas experience. Volunteers are needed for just **3-4 hours**, and there are a variety of roles available.

Please consider being part of this St. James tradition. [Sign up to volunteer through the form on our website.](#)



Perform with the St. James Choir!

Join the choir for *Carols by Candlelight* rehearsals on
Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Dress Rehearsals: Dec. 7 & 9

Performance Dates: Dec. 11 & 12

For more information contact [Kevin Estes](#).

In Our Prayers

Provide a Meal



Billy Sumner

A Give InKind page has been set up for **Billy Sumner**. [Click here for available dates to provide a meal.](#)

Prayer List

Chip Allman

(Friend of the Marlow Family)

Cecil Berry

(Friend of Gretchen Walker)

Family of Michael Black

(Nephew of Patsy Black)

Family of Patsy Black**Angie Buchanan****Mike & Debbie Cagle**

(Friends of Robert & Debbie Davis)

Jay Clemmer**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

(Friends of the Marlows)

Ginger Gibbs

(Friend of Deedee & Jeff Gilbert)

Nancy Haney

(Loved one of Betsy Ballard)

Ryan Hardister

(Son of Bill & Reggie Hardister)

Linda Hartsell**Maureen Hollmeyer****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)

Ron Lee (neighbor of Kathryn Radcliffe)

Buddy McEachern**Jason Matthews****Barbara Merrell**

Deb & Roger Myers (Friends of Deb Black)

Ruthie O'Brien

(Friend of the Marlow Family)

Dave Olsen (Friend of Patsy Black)

Mason Overby

Stan Parnell (Friend of Rob & Debbie Davis)

Al Pieschel**Elizabeth Whittecar Roloff**

(Niece of Margaret Garrison)

Lori Ruff (Mother of Christine Ruff)

Jessica Seeley (Cousin of Christine Ruff)

Robert Shinn**Doris Smith**

Glenda Steel (Friend of Jeff & Deedee Gilbert)

Bobbi Talbert (Friend of Dale & Barbara Merrell)

Ruby Tyer (Niece of Beth Huss' Friend)

John Walker**Mr. & Mrs. Jim Weisel**

Secure Online Giving

Supporting your church is just a few clicks away! With [online giving](#), you can make a one-time gift, set up automatic recurring donations on the date you choose, and view your complete giving history.

Automated recurring gifts are a convenient way to provide our church with much-needed consistent support throughout the year. Thank you for your faithful generosity.



Ways to Give

Volunteer!

Assisting in Worship

[Sunday Worship Volunteer Opportunities](#) are now open! We're looking for Ushers, Greeters, Communion Assistants, Lectors, Acolytes, and Videographers to help on Sundays.

Altar flower dates are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up for flowers [online](#), on the sign-up sheet in the portico, or call the office at 704-786-0166.

Not sure where to start? Email us at info@sjnc.net for more information, training, or to connect with a volunteer team leader.

St. James Staff

Rev. Bill Ridenhour, Pastor [Email](#)

Jill Irvin, Financial Administrator [Email](#)

Dr. Kevin Estes, Director of Music Ministries & Organist [Email](#)

Holly Sloop, Communications Coordinator [Email](#)

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator [Email](#)

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian [Email](#)

Kim Haberman, Congregation President [Email](#)

Contact Us

☎ Phone: (704) 786-0166

🌐 Website: www.sjnc.net

✉ Email: info@sjnc.net

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