



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

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## Week of April 19, 2026

*The Third Sunday of Easter*

### **Introduction to Worship**

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

**Watch the Live Stream:**



[Download Bulletin](#)

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## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, April 19

9:00 am Adult Sunday School  
9:00 am Choir  
9:30 am Children's Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship

### Monday, April 20

10:30am Quilting

### Thursday, April 23

6:30 pm Choir Practice

### Sunday, April 26

9:00 am Adult Sunday School  
9:00 am Choir  
9:30 am Children's Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship

[Church Calendar](#)

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## Sunday Ministries

### LECTOR/INTERCESSOR

April 19 Kim Haberman  
April 26 [Volunteer](#)

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

April 19 Samantha Hillegass  
April 26 Christine Ruff

### ACOLYTE

April 19 Lauren Popovici  
April 26 Noah Pittard

### GREETER

April 19 Barbara Albright  
April 26 [Volunteer](#)

### VIDEOGRAPHER

April 19 [Volunteer](#)  
April 26

### APRIL USHERS

Robert Davis, Samantha Hillegass,  
Dale Merrell

### APRIL BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Robert Davis

### ALTAR FLOWERS

April 19 St. James  
April 26

[Sign Up to Volunteer](#)

[Lector](#)

[Communion  
Assistant](#)

[Acolyte](#)

[Videographer](#)

[Altar Flowers](#)

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# Happy Birthday! 🎈

April 19 - Mallory Horton, Jackson Hughes

April 20 - Sondra Bryn, George Hartsell

April 21 - Sydney Haberman, Ryan Kuly

## Announcements

Live Stream Saturday, April 18 at 1:00pm:



### Rev. Dr. Thomas Eugene Ridenhour, Sr. Service Information

The funeral service for Tom Ridenhour will take place on April 18 at 1:00pm, with visitation beginning at 12:00pm. The full obituary is available at [wilkinsonfuneralhome.com](http://wilkinsonfuneralhome.com).

The service will also be **streamed** for anyone unable to attend in person.



### Attention Parents:

You are invited to meet with the Christian Education Committee and Pastor Bill after worship on **May 3** in the Fellowship Hall. We'll discuss the direction of Christian education for children and youth, review what's working, share ideas, and explore ways you can contribute.



### Honoring Our Graduates

Please let the church office know if you have a child graduating from high school this year. We would like to honor the graduates on **May 17**.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

### This week's lesson...

Children: Gift and Model - Mark 9:36-37,42; Mark 10:13-16

In this lesson, Jesus teaches a "nonhierarchical" (wow, that's a big word!) mindset for His followers. He challenges his disciples to recalibrate their values and embrace a new Kingdom mindset. Jesus encourages unity, service, and childlike faith. He calls His people to accept entry

into His Kingdom with the delight of a child receiving a gift. To be sure, there are childish attitudes and actions we must avoid; however, knowing what those are and how to grow beyond them while honoring and embracing Jesus' viewpoint is our continuing challenge. Look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

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## In case you missed it...



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**July 26 - 28, 2026**

*All volunteers will be required to have a current Safe Gatherings background check. Contact the church office to volunteer.*

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
GROWING IN CHRIST  
EST. 1843

**SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE**  
Cokesbury Kids  
FIND YOUR STRENGTH IN GOD  
sjnc.net

The banner features a winter mountain scene with ski tracks, a cartoon walrus in a red jacket holding a microphone, and the church logo in the top right corner.



### Notice of Council Member Change

Travis Nesbit has resigned from Church Council. According to the Church Constitution, the Church Council shall elect a replacement to fill the empty spot. The Church Council elected Eric Olsen to serve as the replacement. Eric will serve the remainder of Travis' term, which ends in December 2026.



### Altar Flower Sign-Ups

Consider signing up to provide altar flowers for an upcoming Sunday. It's a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or mark an important date.

After worship, any remaining flowers are shared with members of our congregation who are homebound.

[Click here to see available dates and to sign up.](#) Please be sure to fill in the details of how you want the bulletin to read.

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## Reminders



## Amazing Grace Blessing Box

Amazing Grace's Life Skills Lab program continues to keep the Blessing Box stocked every Tuesday and Thursday in partnership with the 1CAN Organization. You can join in this ongoing effort by donating non-perishable food or hygiene items. The red Blessing Box collection bin will remain on the Portico Counter and serve as a year-round ministry opportunity.

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## In Our Prayers

**Cecil Berry** (Friend of Gretchen Walker)

**Family of Michael Black**

(Nephew of Patsy Black)

**Patsy Black**

**Caroline Bost**

**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)

**Jennifer Cook**

(Friend of Fonda Shumate)

**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 Marlow's)

**Jeff Gilbert**

**Tom Grady**

**Ryan Hardister**

(Son of Bill & Reggie Hardister)

**Maureen Hollmeyer**

**Hunter Huss**

**Dale Johnson** (Friend of Dale Merrell)

**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)

**Buddy McEachern**

**Family of Don Matkins**

(Brother-in-law of Margaret Garrison)

**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**

**Lori Ruff** (Mother of Christine Ruff)

**Ruby Tyer** (Niece of Beth Huss' Friend)



## Meal Train Opportunity

The Meal Train for St. James member Jay Clemmer is ongoing. Volunteers are invited to [sign up for dates](#) that work best for them.

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## 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

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## 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 also available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

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## 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](#)

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## Contact Us

 Phone: (704) 786-0166

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 Email: [info@sjnc.net](mailto:info@sjnc.net)

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