

Chapel Notes

The Chrismon Christmas Tree

The Chrismon Christmas Tree, which originated in the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia, in 1957, serves as a tribute to Christ.



“Chrismon” is a blend of two words: CHRIST and MONogram, representing a monogram of Christ.



The creator of the Chrismon Tree conducted extensive research and discovered these monograms in various places—within the Bible, on utensils, in jewelry, catacombs, and buildings.

Early Christians used these symbols to identify one another, mark church meeting locations, and witness to non-believers. More importantly, these symbols were a means of sharing their faith. Over time, additional symbols representing the Savior have been incorporated into the Chrismons.

Many Chrismons feature combinations of two or more symbols. The colors used are strictly white and gold, which are the liturgical colors for Christmas. White symbolizes the purity and perfection of our Savior, while gold reflects the glory and majesty of God and His Son.



Announcements

Christmas at St. James

Sunday Worship During Advent

8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

Wednesday Night Supper & Christmas Movie Night

Wednesday, December 3

5:45 PM | Fellowship Hall

TOTS Countdown to Christmas

Saturday, December 6

10:00 AM | Fellowship Hall

Children up to 4 years old

Countdown to Christmas

Sunday, December 7

3:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Children Pre-K through 5th Grade

Wednesday Night Supper & Carols and Cocoa

Wednesday, December 10

5:45 PM | Fellowship Hall

Hope & Healing Service

Wednesday, December 10

7:15 PM | Parlor

Wednesday Night Supper & Las Posadas

Wednesday, December 17

5:45 PM | Fellowship Hall

Christmas Eve Worship Services

3:00 PM Family Candlelight Service

5:00 PM Candlelight Lessons and Carols

11:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service

Sunday, December 28 | One Service

10:00 AM

Announcements

Hope and Healing Service



December 10, 2025 | 7:15 p.m. | St. James Church Parlor

Join us for a Hope and Healing Service in the church Parlor led by Rev. Matt Cason. All are invited to be part of an uplifting time of knowing Christ's presence with us in the midst of uncertainty, pain, or grief. Join for this time of community worship where we reflect on the hope and healing we ALL can find through our Lord and Savior!

O come, let us adore Him.

Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. | Family Candlelight Service

5:00 p.m. | Candlelight Lessons and Carols

11:00 p.m. | Candlelight Communion Service



Announcements

**THANK YOU FOR
HELPING FUEL THE FLAME!**



Thank you to those of you who have already made your commitment for 2026.

You are fueling the flame here at St. James!

Also, we know some of us have been away and may not have realized we are asking for participation in stewardship. It's not too late! We hope you will go ahead and share your estimate of giving for 2026—it helps us plan well and shine even brighter!

Visit tinyurl.com/bdebzjfp
or scan the QR Code.



Announcements

December Wednesday Night Suppers and Programs

\$13/ADULT
\$7/CHILD, COLLEGE STUDENT, and SCOUT!
\$35 MAX FAMILY FEE
Registration is required by noon on Mondays.

Wednesday, December 3 | Christmas Movie Night!

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas movie be will played in the Fellowship Hall for all ages to enjoy! We invite you to wear your favorite Christmas Pajamas and bring blankets and pillows to relax and enjoy the show! Register at tinyurl.com/2a4cy9rb.



Wednesday, December 10 | Carols and Cocoa Join

us in singing some favorite Christmas Carols along with some other popular festive tunes! We will enjoy Hot Cocoa and Cookies during this time of fun and fellowship. Bring the whole family! This is a casual event open to everyone. No musical experience necessary. Invite your friends and neighbors! Register at tinyurl.com/ybjrxsr8.



Wednesday, December 17 | Las Posadas The children will be dressing up to re-enact the story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and search for lodging. All of us will join them as they make their way to the manger where the Children's choirs will be singing and ringing some Christmas selections. Register at tinyurl.com/2s3frdaj.



Announcements



SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE **Thank you for your generosity!**

Get Into the Christmas Spirit at Countdown to Christmas

Adult Elves needed to welcome our children to our annual Countdown to Christmas. No toy building experience necessary. Santa's helpers must arrive from the North Pole by Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 PM to help Santa park his sleigh and welcome our children with cheer!

Contact Marcela Meeks at mmEEKS@stjamesatlanta.org for more information or to volunteer.



Announcements



MEET CHORAL SCHOLAR BAILEY ABLES

Bailey Ables is from Athens, AL and always knew she wanted to be a Professional Singer when she grew up. Bailey obtained her Bachelor's degree in Music from The University of Alabama in Huntsville in 2022. In May 2025, Bailey obtained her Master's degree in Vocal Performance from Austin Peay State University. While at APSU, Bailey performed the roles of Papagena in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and 1918 Zelda Fitzgerald in Evan Mack's *The Ghosts of Gatsby*.

Currently, Bailey is pursuing an Artist's Certificate in Vocal Performance from Georgia State University. Outside of performing, Bailey loves reading, making floral arrangements, and spending time with her family and fur babies.

MEET CHORAL SCHOLAR OLIVIA ELSE

Olivia Else is an English major and Theatre minor at Oglethorpe University with a passion for Shakespeare. She has been singing for her whole life and, in her spare time, she reads and enjoys walks in nature.



Announcements

St. James Atlanta



CIRCLE OF
SISTERS

wisdom, spirit, fellowship

Circle of Sisters, known as COS, is a group of fun-loving St. James women who enjoy sharing their wisdom, spirit, and fellowship with each other.

COS will not meet in December or January. The next meeting will be Monday, February 9 at 4:00 PM.

For further information, please contact Barbara Bonapfel at bsbonapfel@gmail.com.



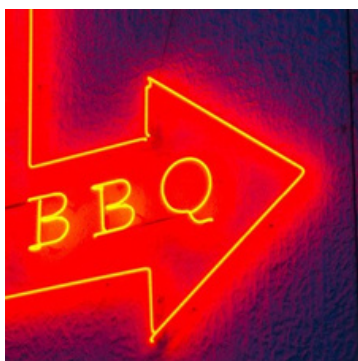
Merry Christmas

from

Circle of Sisters

and

BBQ Band of Brothers



BBQ Band of Brothers

Tuesday, December 9
at 6:30 PM

Come out and join the men of St. James for great food and fellowship. Contact Jim Costlow with any questions at 404-754-3937.

We will meet at
Fox Bros Bar-B-Q in Brookhaven
4058 Peachtree Road NE

Announcements



Parenting in Prayer is a group for parents in the midst of raising their families who want to connect for Fellowship and periodic speakers on relevant parenting and faith-related topics!. This class meets on Sunday mornings at around 9:55 AM in Room 306.

This Fall, Pastors Susan and Matt have enjoyed tag-teaming on lessons from the book, 'Speak My Soul', focusing on hearing God's voice more clearly in our busy, everyday lives and sharing with each other as we live.

For more information, contact Meghan Rachford
(meghan.rachford@gmail.com)
or Katie Wilson (kamorga@gmail.com)!

Class will meet on December 7 & 14.



Devotionals are available to the congregation this Sunday outside the office and in the narthex.
Please pick up a copy to take home.

Announcements

PICKLEBALL CLINIC SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 4 - 6 PM

On Sunday December 7 from 4 - 6 PM, one court will host a new-to-pickleball clinic. We'll answer all your questions, explain the rules, do some practice drills and get you ready to join the group.

We continue with Friendly Open Play Pickleball in the St. James Activities Center on Sundays from 4 - 6 PM. It's been a fun group which includes both new beginners (and some old beginners) and also helpful intermediate players. Balls and paddles are provided if needed.



All are invited to join us and no sign up is needed. Feel free to contact Kent, Maxine, or Rev. Matt if you are interested.

Visit tinyurl.com/nhdnuhpp for
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.

Announcements

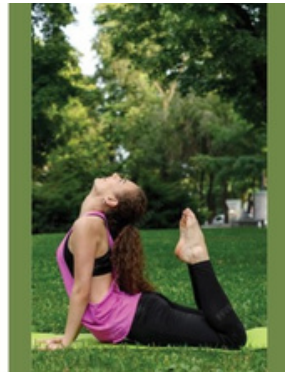
St. James Walking Group Wednesday Mornings | 9:00 AM



Join the St. James Walking Group for weekly walks and hikes around our community and surrounding Atlanta area. To receive information about the walks each week, please contact Jim Branan. 404-538-4867 (james.m.branan@gmail.com)

YOGA @ St. James

Tuesdays at 9:30 AM
Activities Center
\$13/Class



Join us for a time to care for your mind, body, and soul. Classes will take place in the Activities Center on Tuesdays at 9:30 AM.

December dates are 12/2, and 12/16 only. Please register and prepay if you plan to attend by visiting tinyurl.com/2uxzws9w. Drop-ins are also welcome. Please contact Rev. Matt Cason at mcason@stjamesatlanta.org with any questions you may have.

Children's Ministry



TOTS Countdown to Christmas ***Children up to 4 years old***

Join us in the Fellowship Hall where our St. James Elves will lead your children in games, crafts, stories, and breaking the traditional Christmas Piñata!

This is a parent and child event, not a drop-off.

Children are asked to bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to a local charity.

Cost is \$25 per child. Registration is required.

Register at tinyurl.com/5488t8j4

Saturday, December 6

10 AM - 12 PM

Fellowship Hall

Countdown to Christmas ***Children PreK - 5th Grade***

Drop off your children in the Fellowship Hall where our St. James Elves will lead them in games, crafts, stories, and breaking the traditional Christmas Piñata!

Children are asked to bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to a local charity.

Cost is \$25 per child. Registration is required.

Register at tinyurl.com/st2znuwp

Sunday, December 7

3 PM - 5 PM

Fellowship Hall

Children's Ministry



LAS POSADAS

Make plans to join us for Wednesday Night Supper on December 17! Following dinner, we will re-enact the story of Mary and Joseph's journey through Bethlehem. The group will make their way to the manger where the Children's choirs will be singing and ringing some Christmas selections.



Our live nativity participates in the 3:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service. This is open for children 3 years old to 5th grade. Please contact Marcela Meeks at mmeeks@stjamesatlanta.org to register your child so they can be assigned a costume prior to the service.

Children participating must be able to attend our rehearsal on Sunday, December 21, after the 11:00 AM service. We will have pizza for the children in the downstairs Sunday school room and run through the Live Nativity walk with their costumes.

Children's Ministry



GIVING TO OUR COMMUNITY

A Message from Mrs. Meeks:

Now through December 21, our Children's ministry will be partnering with First Presbyterian Church Marietta's Pantry ministry. This Ministry provides canned goods and toiletries to 300 families every week, year-round! I am challenging our children, youth, and families to be intentional about making a difference with a weekly donation of canned food or toiletries. Donations can be placed in a cart outside the KIDZ ZONE.

The children will be encouraged to write a note that will accompany those weekly donations letting those families know that they are loved and they are not alone. What a great way to teach our children to be mindful of others that are less fortunate or going through difficult times!

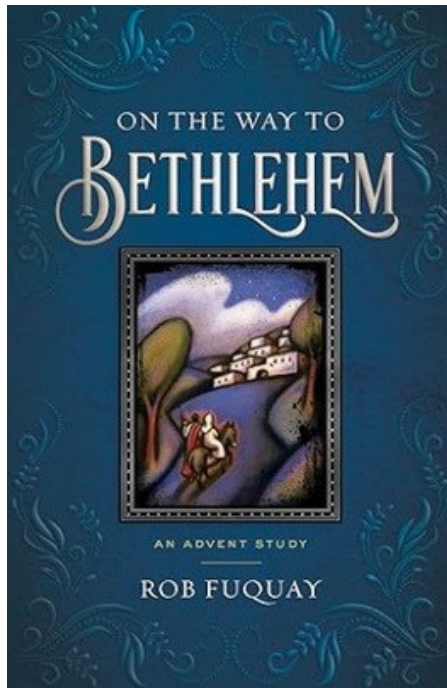


Young Adult Ministry

ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS!

Join Rev. Matt for an 4-week Advent Study on Zoom on the book '*On the Way to Bethlehem*' by Robert Fuquay. Fuquay covers the Christmas Story, beginning with the decree from a king, and ends with the arrival of a Savior. Purchase a copy and join our meetings on Mondays beginning December 1 at 7:30 PM.

Contact Rev. Matt for any questions.
(mcason@stjamesatlanta.org)



Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98579734185?pwd=aA8j967MKELtzOVU5NRYrYvPqWnaPV.1>
Meeting ID: 985 7973 4185 Passcode: 196929

Young Adult Ministry



Attention! Rev. Matt is gauging interest about a Fellowship Bowling Group. If you are interested in this opportunity, or would like to help start one up, please contact Rev. Matt at mcason@stjamesatlanta.org

Join our Young Adult Ministry Activities! Sign Up to receive emails about upcoming events by scanning the QR Code.



TRIVIA NIGHT

Come and test your knowledge of geography, sports, pop culture, among many other areas on Wednesday Nights!

For more information, please reach out to Rev. Matt Cason (mcason@stjamesatlanta.org).

Youth Ministry

EVENTS DECEMBER 2025 SCHEDULE

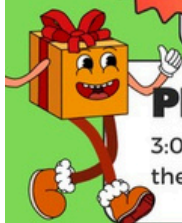
**SUN
07**

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

3:00pm, Volunteer to be one of Santa's helpers!

DECK THE HALLS

5:00pm, help us decorate the youth room for Christmas!



PROGRESSIVE DINNER

3:00pm, meet at the church and bring a gift for the Christmas gift exchange!

**SUN
14**

**SUN
21**

COOKIES, COCOA, AND CHRISTMAS MOVIES

5:00pm, meet in the youth room!



NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
See you on Jan. 4th!

**SUN
28**



more info:

Contact Victoria
vcason@stjamesatlanta.org or find
us on Instagram!



Follow us on Instagram
[@stjamesatlantayouth](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesatlantayouth)

Youth Ministry News

Exciting News!

After an extensive and thorough search, the SPRC committee is pleased and excited to announce that Victoria Cason will be the new Youth Director!

Christmas Eve

If you would like for your student to participate in the Christmas Eve service at either 3 PM or 5 PM, please contact Victoria Cason (vcason@stjamesatlanta.org). We are looking for those willing to serve as acolytes or readers. **There will be no youth activities on December 28**, we will resume youth Sunday school and youth group on January 4.

Confirmation will begin on January 11! More details to follow! If your student is in 6th grade or if your student hasn't participated in confirmation and would like to, please reach out to Victoria Cason (vcason@stjamesatlanta.org).

Stay tuned for more exciting events coming in 2026!



Sign ups for providing a meal for January - May for youth group on Sunday nights are live! Please sign up if you would like to volunteer in this way!

Sign up by visiting tinyurl.com/38k5634p.

Celebrations & Concerns

Prayer Concerns

Jennie Brooks - Home

Elizabeth Grace - Home

Sandra Owen - Hospice Care

Natalie Pawelski - Home

Betty Sykes - Huntcliff Rehabilitation

Celebrating New Members:

Langston & Liz Vaughn, daughter Emerson

Brandon and Lindsey Laube, children Addison, Emma, and Aiden

Extending Christian love and sympathy to:

The family of Frances Collins who died November 18, 2025

Barbara Verner and Carol Gardner on the death of their mother,
Marjorie "Midge" Gardner, who died November 25, 2025

Tom & Mary Young, and to Richie & Laura Woodward, on the
death of Laura McLemore who died December 1, 2025

Staff Directory

Senior Pastor: Rev. Susan Landry

Associate Pastor: Rev. Matt Cason

Pastor of Visitation: Rev. Dr. Jim Cantrell

Director of Music Ministry:
Dr. Andrew Schmidt

Director of Children's Arts and Ministries:
Marcela Meeks

Director of Youth Ministry:
Victoria Cason

Organist: Dr. Craig Smith

Building and Grounds Director:
Steve Hicks

Finance and Membership Manager:
Shannan Wassel

Communications and Office Manager:
Kitty Turner

Director of Activities Ministry: Cody Ellis

Administrative Assistant: Lee Padhye

Preschool Director: Susan Viers

Missionaries: Will & Ella Faircloth



St James
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4400 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, GA 30342

Church Office (404) 261-3121 | **Preschool Office** (404) 237-7354

stjamesatlanta.org

Stay connected with us!



"As a Christian community, our mission is to help every person grow in faith that translates belief into action."

- ST JAMES IS A RECONCILING CONGREGATION -

