



- ST JAMES -

MONTHLY



August 2026

St. James Atlanta Ministry Fair

August 30, 2026



Looking for connection, community, and ways to serve?
Experience and learn about ALL of the wonderful ministries and
groups of the church! Please join us and invite your friends!

The ministry fair will take place from 9:45 to 10:45,
and then immediately resume at the end of 11:00 worship!

We will have activities planned for children,
so that parents can participate.

**We will also have a special GRAND PRIZE drawing for those who
participate: Two Delta SKY CLUB seats to watch the
Atlanta Braves take on the Cincinnati Reds on
Tuesday, September 22nd.
These seats also come with free
Delta Parking as well as free food and drinks!**

THIS MONTH'S People In The PEWS!

Leigh and Tom Evans are among St. James' newest members, and they are new Atlantans, as well. When they moved here from Las Vegas to be closer to family, they decided to find the right church first, and then shop for a home nearby.

Leigh and Tom wanted to be faithful to friends and to their experience as members of a Reconciling Ministries Network UMC church in Las Vegas. They drew up a list of Reconciling Ministries in Atlanta — churches that, like St. James, work to advance justice and inclusion for LGBTQ+ people in the United Methodist Church and beyond.



Tom & Leigh trying curling in Las Vegas

Tom came to St. James one Sunday and was struck by the beauty of our sanctuary. He knew St. James' traditional service and wonderful music would be right up Leigh's alley. What sealed the deal was St. James' trademark ultra-warm welcome from church members and pastors alike — complete with gift bag, of course!

Tom and Leigh have been together since their college days at LSU, and don't ever diss the Tigers in their presence. Tom spent over 40 years on the financial side of the casino gaming industry — mostly with Caesars — and while he won't give gambling tips, he will point out that there's a reason casinos can afford to be so opulent. The couple has three sons; two are now raising sons of their own and get frequent visits from their grandparents, while the other just got married and lives in Atlanta.

In Vegas, Leigh and Tom enjoyed playing tourist in their own town. Now they are doing the same in Atlanta, so be generous with your restaurant suggestions. At St. James, too, they've hit the ground running, with Leigh joining the bell choir, Tom playing pickleball, and both joining the Joy class.

Fun facts about Leigh & Tom:

- They've been to 3 out of 4 Tennis Grand Slam tournaments. Next up: Wimbledon.
- Leigh is a cradle Methodist, and her favorite hymn is Great Is Thy Faithfulness.
- As Las Vegans, they toured Wayne Newton's house, learned that the comedian, Carrot Top, is a devoted swim team dad, and got the inside scoop on Celine Dion's 3 AM tanning routine.



Leigh & Tom at the
England vs. Congo
World Cup Match in Atlanta

Announcements

ST JAMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Bash

A FUN-FILLED DAY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

WATERSLIDE

FAMILY COOK OUT

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

SUNDAY
AUGUST 2

ST. JAMES UMC

11 AM

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US!

Let's start the school year together in faith, fellowship, and fun!

Please join us this Sunday, August 2 at 11 AM
for the Blessing of the Backpacks,
a Kid's Waterslide, and
a Family Cook Out!

Parents, be sure your children wear their bathing suits under their church clothes. Oh, and don't forget to bring a towel!

Cook Out Meals are \$10 per person.
Please pay in person at the event.
Preregistration is closed.

Announcements



Sunday, September 13, 2026

12:00 - 3:00 PM

St. James UMC Activities Center



DONATE TODAY!

**St. James needs to raise \$14,500
to fund food supplies to provide
36,000 meals to needy families.**

tinyurl.com/mr2a57k7

**Please have donations in by August 12th
to assure we meet our meal goal.**

REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER

Set- Up: 10:45 - 11:45 12 people

Meal Packing: 12 - 3:00 120 people

Clean up: 3 - 4:00 12 people

tinyurl.com/yp2cp3az

Pizza Lunch Served 12:00 - 12:20 | Packing Starts at 12:25

Announcements



BLOOD DRIVE

FRIDAY

August 14, 2026

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

St. James UMC

Fellowship Hall

Every 2 seconds someone needs blood!!

Each pint helps THREE people who are undergoing cancer treatment, or who've been in a car accident or are dealing with blood disorders. What a gift your donation will be!

Please sign up for a time slot. If you decide at the last minute to donate, just come on – we'll have signs to direct you!

We promise to have some great cookies and juice for those who come in.

Thank you again for your gift of life.

Questions? Les Steiger (770) 314-7409

Sign Up by visiting tinyurl.com/yc3cs2e6

Announcements



**SAFE SANCTUARIES
TRAINING
AUGUST 10, 2026
11:30 AM**

Join us in the Library on August 10 at 11:30 AM for our Safe Sanctuaries Training Program led by Mimi Sanders.

Safe Sanctuaries is a comprehensive program designed to ensure that every member of the community understands the importance of maintaining secure environments for our children, youth, and vulnerable adults. Participants are equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to provide a safe space for ministry.

The training emphasizes empathy, vigilance, and proactive measures, as well as fostering a culture where everyone is protected and valued. Through interactive workshops, real-life case studies, and open discussions, individuals will be empowered to contribute to a safer, more inclusive space for all.

St. James requires that everyone who is involved with children or youth ministries complete this program. Many of our volunteers have already received this training. Once you complete the program, you are certified for 5 years. Please call the office if you plan to attend. (404) 261-3121

Announcements

WNS RETURNS THIS FALL WITH BINGO AND TOUCH-A-TRUCK!

Wednesday Night Supper season is approaching!

Our first Wednesday Night Supper this Fall will be September 9.

We will have another delicious dinner prepared by Chef Roger's Kitchen, followed by a fun evening playing BINGO with your church friends!

On Wednesday, September 16, we invite our Preschool families to join us and enjoy dinner, a fire safety puppet show, and Touch-A-Truck! More details coming soon. This will be an evening filled with food, fun, and fellowship for the whole family!

Start your
ENGINES
and
ROLL IN TO
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
this fall!

**TOUCH
a
TRUCK**

**WELCOMING ALL
PRESCHOOL FAMILIES TO THE NEW YEAR!**

SEPTEMBER 16 | 5:00 PM

ST JAMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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.

Circle of Sisters is taking a summer break in July and August. Please plan to join us at our next gathering, September 14, 2026, from 4 - 6 PM.

We will meet at the home of Barbara Bonapfel,
4695 Kitty Hawk Place | Atlanta, GA 30342

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



BBQ Band of Brothers

Tuesday, August 11
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



We continue with Friendly Open Play Pickleball in the St. James Activities Center on Sundays from 4 - 6 PM. It is 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 Tom Evans (lvtevens@gmail.com) or Matt Cason (mcason@stjamesatlanta.org) or the Church office at (404) 261-3121 for more information.



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)

Children's Ministry



SUNDAY NURSERY HOURS

August 2

No Nursery Downstairs

August 9

Nursery Open 10:45 to 12:15

August 16

Sunday School and Music Begin

Nursery Open 9:30 to 12:15



On Sunday, August 2, children can be dropped off at 10:45 at the Sanctuary doors or they can sit with their parents. During the 11 AM service, we will have our Blessing of the Backpacks followed by the Back-to-School Bash Waterslide and Family Cook Out!

On Sunday, August 9, children can be dropped off at 10:45 in the Nursery and Kidz Zone. Disciples at Play will follow the Children's Moment during the 11:00 service.

On August 16, we will begin our Sunday School and Music Programs. Children can be dropped off at 9:30 and we will have Worship and Wonder during the 11 AM service.



DREW HILLIARD RECEIVES SPECIAL MUSIC AWARD

We are proud of our children when they use their God Given Talents to bring joy and make our world a better place! Earlier this year, Drew Hilliard was given a special Music Award by his school. He took the initiative to start playing piano in the cafeteria every morning as the school staff and students arrive. His music adds something special to everyone's day!



St. James Children's Ministry is so proud of you, Drew,
for bringing joy and inspiring others.

KEEP SHINING!

Youth Ministry



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH

- August 9th at 5:00-7:00pm
- Join us for slip-n-slide, kickball, and other water/messy games!
- We will have Waffle House Catering!
- Please RSVP here! tinyurl.com/3mzzdchk

Youth Ministry



Youth Ministry

OUR ATLANTA MISSION RETREAT WAS A SUCCESS!

We packed 160 sandwiches for the Sandwich Project,
100 hygiene kits for Trinity Table,
40 birthday cake kits for the Community Assistance Center,
and raked straw and stained a fence for BreakThru House!

Thank you to all those who made our retreat possible!

OUR CHAPERONES

Tom and Leigh Evans, Jim Branan, Kemo Carson,
Rev. Susan, and Rev. Matt!

OUR DINNER VOLUNTEERS

Luanne Johnson and the Joy Sunday School Class!

OUR POOL PARTY HOSTS

Nancy Grace and David Linch!

**And a very special thank you to our Belief in Action
committee for helping fund our projects for the week!
We couldn't have accomplished this without your help!**

Youth Ministry



Sunday school resumes on August 9 at 9:45 AM in the youth room! Starbucks Sundays will begin on August 16! Meet us at 9:30 AM at the church if you need a ride! We will return to the church for the 11 AM service together!

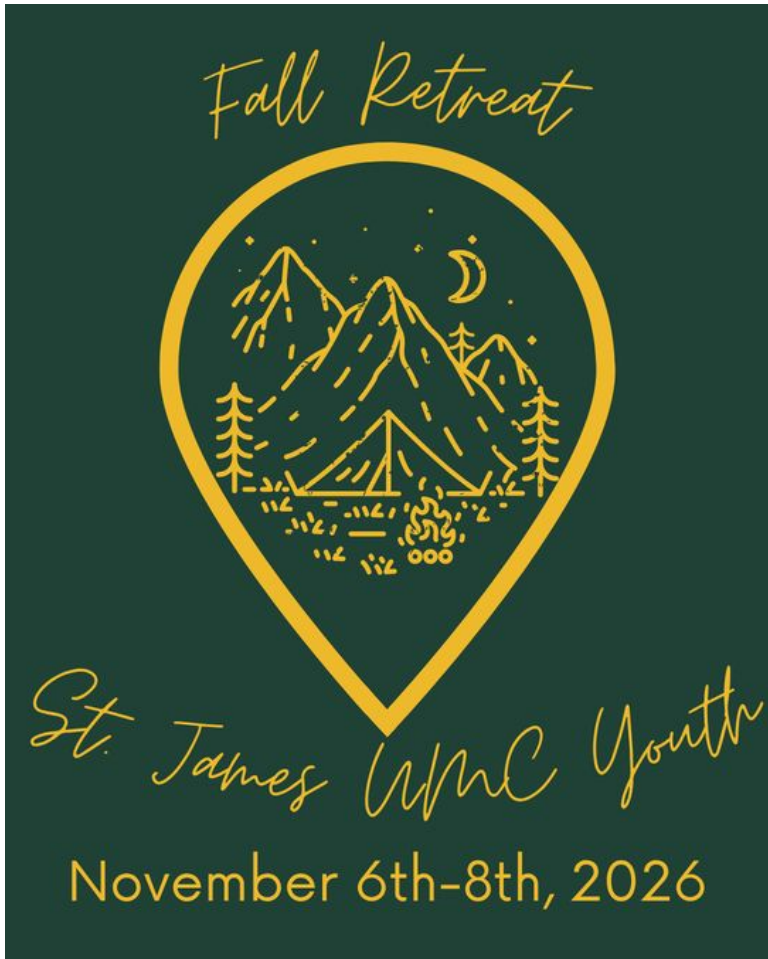
Our fall parent meeting will be August 23 at 12:15 PM after worship! We will meet in the youth room and lunch will be provided! Please join us to go over calendars, sign up for youth dinners, and go over other important information!

On August 30 we will be having a Ministry Fair to celebrate and share how people can serve in those ministries! If you would like to help at the youth table we have two time slots available!

- 9:45 - 10:45
- 12:00 - 1:30

We would like around 2-3 students available to serve at the table at those time slots!

Youth Ministry



Youth Fall Retreat will be the weekend of November 6 - 8.

The cost of deposit will be \$150.

The final day to register will be Sunday October 11!

Register by visiting tinyurl.com/2rwum5e2

Follow our Google Calendar for all upcoming events!

tinyurl.com/78ej72dh

Young Adult Ministry



All young adults are invited for a GAME SHOW experience!
Be a part of 'Game Show Battle Rooms' that have participants
team up and face off against other friends in custom arenas
playing immersive games!

Event takes place on Friday, August 21 at 8 PM.

We will also have an opportunity to gather for
dinner before the event.

Deadline to sign up is
Tuesday, August 18.

Sign Up by visiting tinyurl.com/yexhyrww



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).

Join our Young Adult Ministry Activities! Sign Up
to receive emails about upcoming events at

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/WrYIEs6>

Celebrations & Concerns

Prayer Concerns

Sharon Whitlow Brody - Home Sandra Owen - Regency Manor

Jennie Brooks - Home Natalie Pawelski - Home

Elizabeth Grace - Home Betty Sykes - Huntcliff Rehab

Celebrating the birth of Fisher Clay Battle, son of
Clarie Cantrell Battle and Bruce Battle, born June 24, 2026.
His proud grandparents are Jim and Holly Cantrell.

Extending Christian love and sympathy to Elizabeth Bessonette and
family on the death of her husband,
Colin Bessonette, who died July 6, 2026.

Extending Christian love and sympathy to Kent & Maxine Watkins
on the death of Kent's mother,
Shirley Watkins, who died July 24, 2026.

Memorials & Honoraria

In Memory of Russell Tyler

Larry Tyler

In Honor of Fisher Clay Battle

(Grandson of Jim & Holly Cantrell)
Jennifer F. Chinn

In Memory of Colin Bessonette

Cindy Arnold	Darby & Greg Peterson
Andrew Charles	Marilyn Johnson
Alan Friedman	Eva Frink
Ronald Greenberg	Dan Coursey, Jr.
Emily Moon	Elizabeth B. Spann
Jonathan Wagner	Anne Rushing
Else Culpapper	Anne Boyd

The Wesley Class

Frank & Marilyn Humphreys (Music Fund)
Ben & Elaine Dooley (Choral Scholar Fund)
Joe & Jackie Brown (Organ Fund)
Paul & Barbara Bonapfel (Memorial Garden)

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: James Pinder

Organist Emeritus: 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: Marla Reisman

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 -

