Saint James Lutheran Church

November 29, 2026

First Sunday of Adevent



The Rev. John Locke

704-530-9969 (cell) JPL406@gmail.com

1424 Morganton Rd. 910-484-8052 (office)

PO Box 53276 www.saintjamesfay.org

Fayetteville, NC 28305

Musician: Alyssa Hall

Worship Leaders		
	November 29 First Sunday of Advent	**December 6 Second Sunday of Advent**
Assisting Ministers	Scott Marosek, Gary Crecelius and Rick Black	Jane Boelke
Lector	Glenn Stockwell	Norman Mutter
Communion Assistants	Nancy Oliver	Delores Schiebe
Ushers	Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius	tba
Greeter	Sonia Nazario	Jody Smith
Acolyte	Holden Linkous	Willow Linkous
Rover	Verena & Christopher Min	Edward Samuelian
Worship Nursery	Tonie Neal, Jennifer Linkous	Sue Rink, Kathy Brown

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GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who calls out to the weary,
whose word endures forever. **Amen.**

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Comforting God,
we are your people,
but we have neglected to call on your name.
We are your people,
but we have not remembered your ways.
We are your people,
but we have forgotten your hold on us.
We are your people,
but now we fade like a leaf,
and our sins, like the wind, take us away.
Restore us as your people.
Cleanse us from our sin,
and clothe us in your righteousness.
Amen.

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God,
who has clothed you with the garments of salvation
and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness.
God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven:
Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn ELW 242

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

We sit.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children will remain in the sanctuary following children's time to assist with the lighting of the Advent Candle.

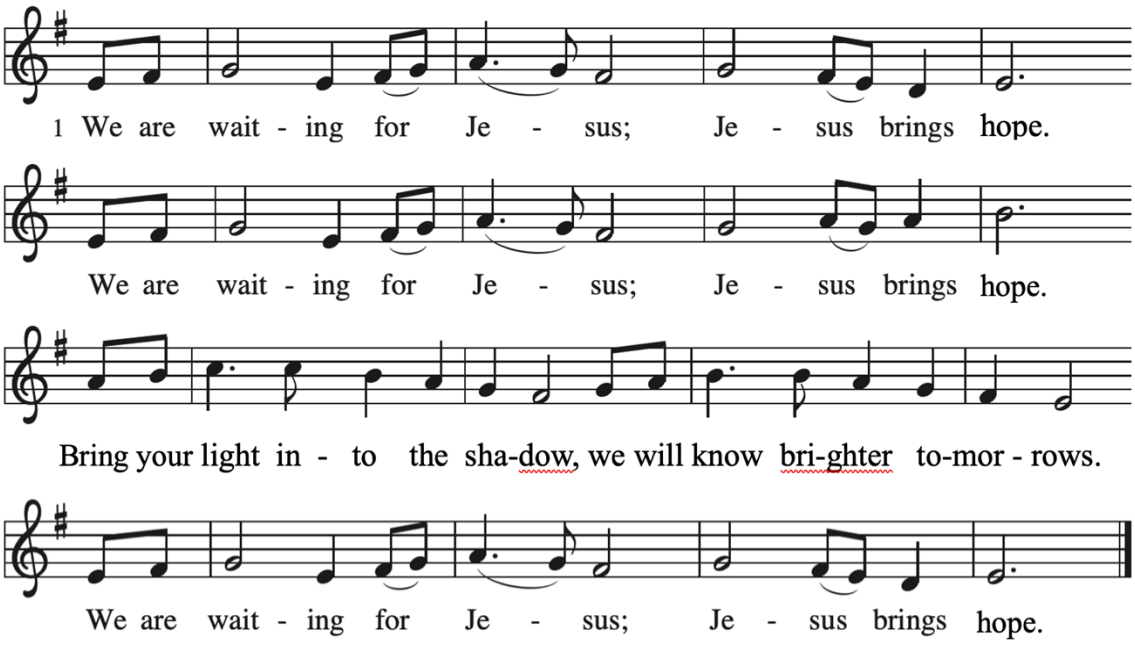
BEFORE BETHLEHEM - An interview with The Prophet Isaiah

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Children's Procession of Light

We sing as the first Candle is lighted

We Are Waiting for Jesus (ACS 905)



FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 NRSVUE

2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

6 For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 27:1, 7-14 NRSVUE

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!
8 "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, do I seek.
9 Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off; do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!
10 If my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me up.
11 Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.
12 Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.
13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
14 Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

We stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*I Want To Walk as a Child of The Light (*vs 1 & 3) ELW 815

GOSPEL The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 1:1-14 NRSVUE

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the
beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into
being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines
in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so
that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The
true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He
came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who
believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the
will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's
only son, full of grace and truth.

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

We sit

ADVENT HOMILY Pastor John

CHOIR ANTHEM *Do You See What I See*

THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR COLT CHARLES BRODING



PRESENTATION

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

I present Colt Charles Broding for baptism.

The Assisting Minister presents Colt for the sacrament of Baptism:

Caitlyn and Riley, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Colt Charles baptized into Christ?

Response: We do.

As you bring Colt to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that he may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Caitlyn & Riley, do you promise to nurture Colt in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Colt and pray for him in his new life in Christ?
We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
Response: I renounce them.

The assembly stands.

Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.
Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

Colt Charles Broding, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Congregation's affirmation
You belong to Christ,
in whom you have been baptized.
Alleluia.

Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Colt with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Colt Charles Broding, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

We sing *"Baptized and Set Free"* ELW 453 as family returns to their seats.

1 We are people created,
chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently,
in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more.
Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing,
and wholeness and more.

4 Now with praise and thanksgiving,
we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather
to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free!
From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water,
baptized and set free!

We stand

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Names are listed in the back of the bulletin)*

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

God, in your mercy.
hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of God be with you always.
And also with you.

We share this peace as a sign of our baptismal unity as children of God. The "exchange of peace" (also commonly called "sharing the peace" or "passing the peace") is an act of reconciliation that serves as a transition point between the Word and Meal portions of the liturgy.

We sit

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.



Support of the ministries of St. James, as well as the wider church, is appreciated. To donate with cash or check use an envelope from the back of the pew or scan the QR code to donate digitally. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM (Instrumental)

We stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy Creator,
we are the clay and you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

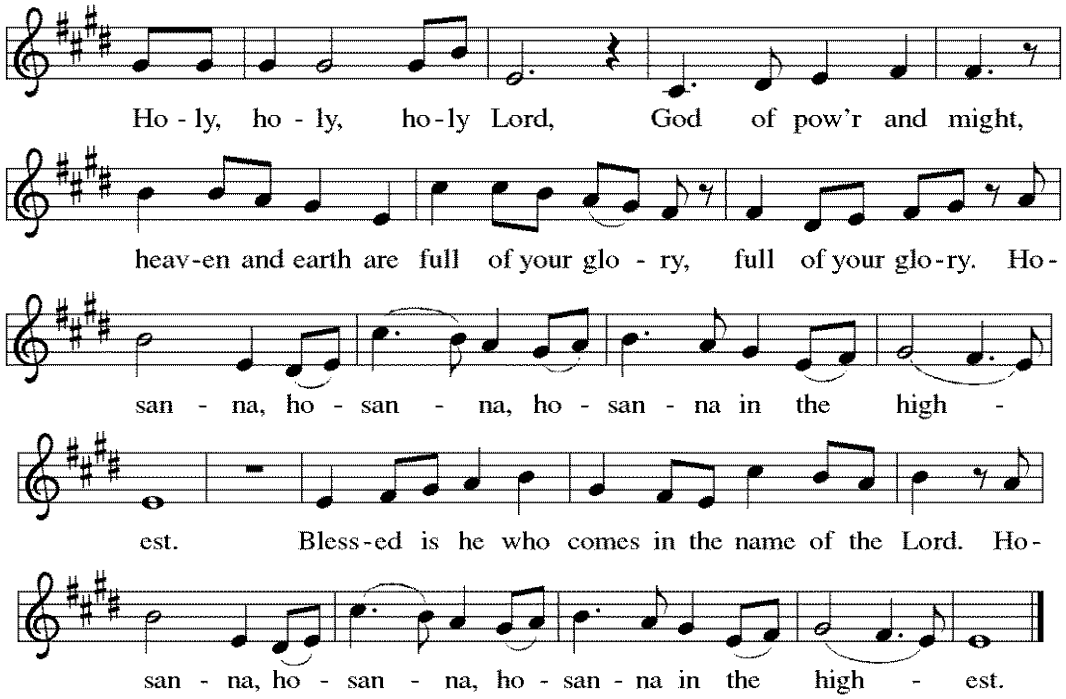
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW setting 8)



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory,
now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional Version)*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The glory of the Lord is revealed!
Come and taste God's presence.
Thanks be to God.

We sit.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

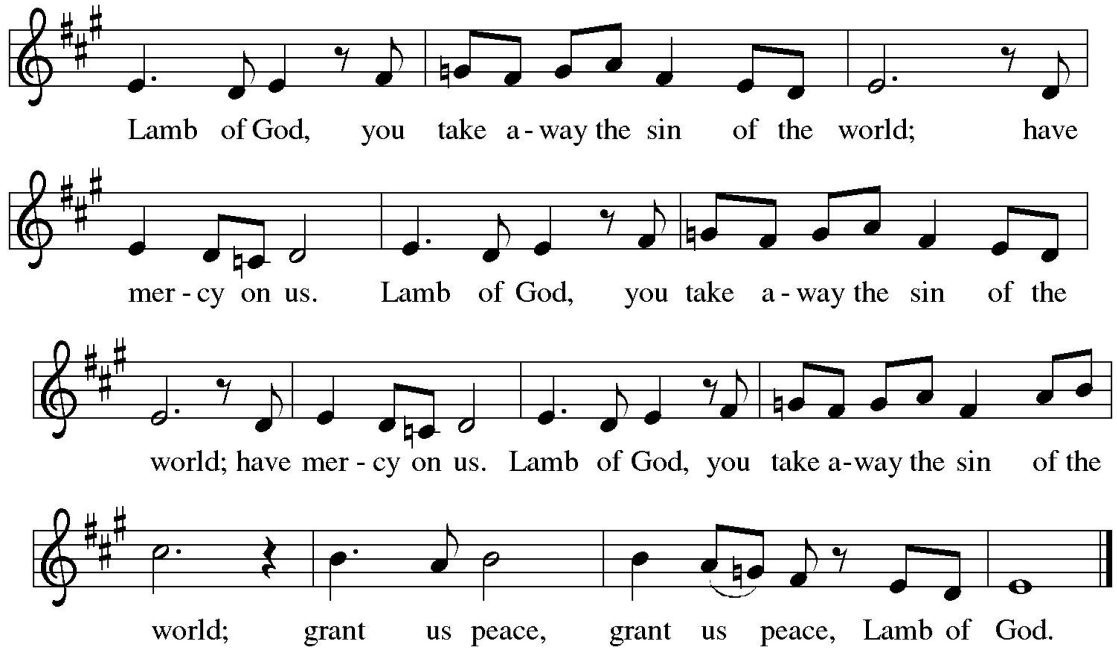
All are welcome at Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that Jesus' real presence is in, under, and through the bread and wine. The sacrament is effective in either bread or wine, so if you have an issue with either bread or wine, you may commune with one element. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available for those who prefer. We will distribute bread and wine by individual cup. Children and others not communing may fold arms across their chest, and they will receive a blessing from the communion minister.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
And each person may respond **Amen**

COMMUNION SONGS

Lamb of God (Setting 8)



Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus ELW 254

Bread of Life From Heaven ELW 474

We stand.

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Providing God,
you feed your flock like a shepherd
and gather your people in your arms.
We praise you for the care and sustenance
you give at this meal and always.
As we leave your table, carry us near your heart,
and send us with confidence in the way
of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God of light and giver of hope,
God provider of our feast,
God our companion in the journey of faith,
☩ bless you now and forever.

SENDING HYMN *All Earth is Hopeful* ELW 266

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Bring the good news of hope to the brokenhearted.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS - November 11/29/26

The list in the weekly bulletin is intended to be for persons in immediate crisis. Generally, those names are moved to the newsletter after 3 weeks. The newsletter has our long-term prayer list which is updated as you tell us.

Members · Beth Sessoms · Larry Schiebe · Philip Williams · Anna Lena Andersen · Cayla Chaplin · Gary Eissinger · Barbara Azzarelli · Suzi Wilkinson · Paul Orose

Friends & Family

· Diane Stultz · Stasha ·Katie Maxwell · Charlotte Choice and family · Mindy Quinby · Morgen Jensen · James Rose · Ethan Thompkins · Simone Ryan · Mike Crecelius · Connie Vargas · Irene Ferguson ·Sal LoGalbo · Kathy Huling · Karrie Hawkins · Betty Beale · Nicole Bordley & Illya Tietzel · Jason Everage · Alan Carlson · Faith Mitchell

People at Home or in Care facilities: · Charlotte Davis · Brenda Killett · Betty Kern

Our military members (*deployed)

· Earl Stockham · Dan Gibson · Joshua Trogdon · Bella Fish · Hochang Min · Alex Habermehl · Matthew Porter · Derek Carlson ·Howard Hogan* · Zach Fuhr ·Addie Piatz* · Douglas Gearing* · Chad Kennedy · Riley Broding · Robert Bradley · Angelus VanDervoort · Mustafa Alshamari

Ministry at St. James … November 29 – December 6, 2026

Sun. Nov 29	***First Sunday of Advent***	
	9:00 am	Sunday Morning Faith Formation
	10:00 am	Worship and Baptism of Colt Broding
	11:30 am	Choir Practice
Mon. Nov 30	NO QUILTING TODAY	
	6:00 pm	Cub Scout Den Meeting
Tue. Dec 1	12:00 pm	Prime Timers Luncheon (Fellowship Hall – All are welcome)
	6:30 pm	Boy Scouts Troop 747
	7:00 pm	Fellowship on Zoom
Wed. Dec 2	5:30 pm	Theology on Tap (Men's fellowship on the back lawn)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Choir rehearsal
Fri. Dec 4	9:30 am	Church Women United
Sat. Dec 5	8:30 am	Christmas Tree Set-up
Sun. Dec 6	***Second Sunday of Advent***	
	9:00 am	Sunday Morning Faith Formation
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:30 am	Choir Practice

Upcoming Worship Highlights:

Dec 12 (Sat) Annual Christmas – Advent Fellowship Dinner with ***Rivermist***
Meal at 5:30 pm / Rivermist plays at 7:00 pm. Call the office to register!



Nominations for Congregation Council 2027 – 28

If you know someone you think has skills, passions, or gifts for Council, please speak with one of the nominating team members below; and remember, self-nominations are allowed. Elections are scheduled for December 27.

Nominating Committee 2026

Edward Samuelian	910-551-9082	**Joan Eissinger**	910-850-8444
Amber Habermehl	864-704-3482	**Daniel Linkous**	910-527-6633
Lindsey Smith	812-272-8161	**Illya Tietzel**	504-344-1166

PRIME TIMERS
Senior Adult Ministry

Join us every first Tuesday, at Noon!
Potluck Lunch in our Fellowship Hall
December 1st at Noon

The Prime Timer group is designed as a fellowship opportunity for all members over 55.
We expect the Dulcimers from Goldsboro to start our season off with their beautiful entertainment.
Join us for our potluck luncheon, and good fellowship.



Men's Fellowship – December 2

THEOLOGY ON TAP
FAITH • FRIENDS • FUN

Come join us every first Wednesday 5:30 pm - 8 pm on the back lawn of St. James *for brats, beans, and beverages.*
If you are coming, let Dave Runkle or Todd Burns know in advance.

Weather plan is in the Annex/Entrance across the parking lot



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
5:00 – 7:00 PM

The Youth Backwards Banquet

Semi-formal Attire

A nod to the flip in roles where adults wait hand and foot on the youth

A youth event with Westminster Presbyterian Church, Sunday, December 6th, 5pm - 7pm.

RSVP required to Jennifer Linkous today! 910-728-3438

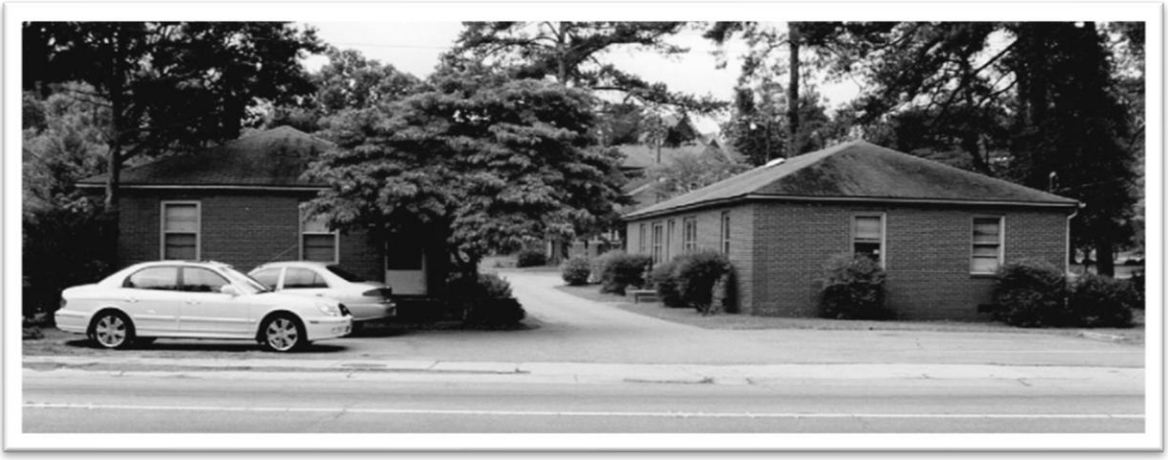
This will be a fun time, so come on along!

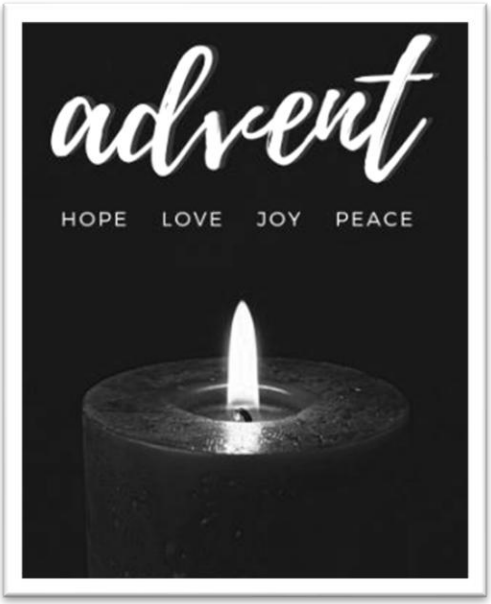
MEMORIES of NINETY YEARS

To celebrate our 90th anniversary, a small snippet of our history will be featured in the bulletin each week.

To alleviate traffic congestion at the intersection of Ft. Bragg and Morganton roads, the State Highway Commission planned to turn them into one-way streets from their intersection in Haymount to Dobbin Avenue. The construction of the crossover required St. James to sell the parsonage to the highway commission. We were reimbursed $25,000 plus two small lots. In May of 1966 we voted to purchase property on Ft. Bragg road behind the church for future expansion or parking area.
There were 4 apartments on the property which were rented to help retire the $35,000 cost of the lot.

Eventually, these two duplexes were joined together, and the renovated building became known as The Annex. Today it houses the main church office, the pastor's office, meeting and storage spaces, archives, Scout executive space, quilting room, and an area planned for an updated youth room.
This photo was taken from Fort BRAGG ROAD side of campus.





Today we begin the four Sundays of advent, a traditional time of waiting for the coming of Messiah.

We will explore the traditional themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love as witnessed in the life of the prophet Isaiah.

Each week we will explore a different "*personality*" of the Christmas story: the coming of the light; the announcement of Christ's coming by John the Baptist; an angel visits Mary, and Mary visits her Aunt Elizabeth; and local shepherds and villagers going to see the newborn Jesus.

So, come and see ... Come and worship!



In the spirit of helping others this season. we will be collecting monetary donations to bless the family of Ethan Thompkins, one of our Scouts, who required a leg amputation due to his recent bone cancer diagnosis.

If you cannot attend the event, you may donate by going to the church web site. Or use an envelope from the pew on Sunday and designate it For Ethan.

Reservations at
www.saintjamesfay.org or
call 910-484-8052 by Dec.4th

QUESTIONS AND FOOD DONATIONS:

Contact Ruth Ann Crecelius by text at 910-309-1007