



St. James United Methodist Church

March 2023

THE CONNECTION

A NOTE FROM BEN



Exciting things are happening all around St. James this Spring. Particularly, I am thrilled to announce that beginning on Palm Sunday, April 2nd, the 11:00 Worship Center Service, known as Vertical Event, will be returning to our campus after a hiatus due to the pandemic. With the growth in our on-campus worship attendance expected to continue alongside our online attendance numbers, St. James leadership feels that now is the right time to bring back this meaningful service. Hand in hand with this come significant upgrades to our streaming worship experience which include upgrades to our streaming audio through the creation of a dedicated "Production Studio" for all of our Tech Team members to utilize. We are thrilled to be able to reach more people for Jesus and continue to make Him known throughout our community.

I will continue to be the primary Preaching Pastor in the Sanctuary Worship services at 8:30 and 11:00, and will also be the primary Preaching Pastor at the 9:30 Modern Worship service called "The Orchard" held in the Worship Center. Rev. Greg Schick will resume his role as primary Preaching Pastor at Vertical Event. Our online streaming schedule will remain as it is now. We want to continue to offer a variety of worship styles and spaces so that we can cast our nets out wide into the world, and create spaces for all people to experience the love of God.

I am so thankful to all who made special contributions to this endeavor. Your financial gifts made a difference. I am also grateful for all of our talented lay people who help lead worship each week: our Choirs and Praise bands, Tech Team volunteers, Greeters and Ushers, and all who help behind the scenes. God is glorified in our Worship! Praise be to God!

Grace and Peace,
Ben



Associate Pastor of Connections, Rev. Greg Schick, Facilities Manager, Renee Atkinson, and Kyle Howard, Director of Technical Services with the newly installed Production Studio in the former Worship Center Nursery.

New Contemporary Service to Begin on Palm Sunday!

St. James is excited to announce an additional Contemporary Service at 11:00am on Sunday mornings beginning April 2 - Palm Sunday. This service was added to accommodate those who go to Sunday School at 9:30am.

Rev. Greg Schick, Associate Pastor of Connections, will lead the new service. "We're excited to bring back another expression of contemporary worship to St. James!", said Greg.

In order to have a 11:00 live service (Worship Center) and a live & livestreamed service (Sanctuary) at the same time the technical team required a new working space. The former Worship Center Nursery has now been transformed into a Production Studio, with the former nursery cabinetry now installed in the Print Shop. With Facilities Manager, Renee Atkinson acting as foreman and Kyle Howard, Director of Technical Services providing the technical knowledge, the former nursery is now a state-of-the-art audio & video control room for the livestreaming. The Worship Center sound booth will still be used for live worship audio, video and cameras.

"We are so excited to bring back our Vertical Event service on Sunday mornings! I know this service has meant a great deal to the church over the years and we are anticipating mighty things with its return", said David Williams, Contemporary Worship Leader.

With the addition of a new service comes new needs for audio, video and camera operators. If you're interested in a part-time, paid position, contact Kyle Howard at 501-217-6718.

Ash Wednesday

PHOTOS BY ALISON VIGNEAULT

St. James welcomed the beginning of Lent with a 12:15 & 6:30pm Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 22.

Christians attend this service of repentance and renewal that consists of a time of prayer and the imposition of ashes in the form of a cross on one's forehead to mark the start of Lent.

Dust is a powerful symbol of our humble beginnings and our humble end: "For dust you are," says the Lord, "and to dust you shall return."

The ashes represent humanity's collective and individual sins of destruction symbolically, leaving selves, families, nature, and cities in a heap of ash.



Congratulations to Willie Bobo!



Congratulations to St. James member **Willie Bobo** for being elected to the Community of Hope International Board of Directors

as Chair of the Communications Committee! This volunteer position keeps the National Chapter up-to-date with what's new and changes in the curriculum. He has been with COH for 2 years and is helping Jenny Smith, Director of Congregational Care, with the current class.

If you would like to participate in the next Community of Hope, contact Jenny at 501-217-6756.

We have babies!

We are excited to announce new babies to St. James staff!



Rebecca Clement, Assistant Director of the Learning Center, and her husband, Chris, welcomed Bentley Michael Clement on November 1, 2022.



Melissa Stansbery, Director of Children's Ministries, and husband Blake, welcomed a baby boy, Blake Andrew (Andy) Stansbery, Jr. on March 1,

2023. Baby Blake joins 3 brothers and a sister!

Congrats Rebecca & Melissa!



Centershot Archery made just over \$1,000 in donations (\$625 after expenses) from the Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast! The funds were raised to help with expenses for the National Archery Tournament in Lexington, KY and to help purchase additional targets and shirts.

"I am grateful we were able to serve the church and share the ministry of Centershot. The program is currently open to 6th-12th graders. If I had the space/time and coaches I would love to expand the program to include families and small groups." says Darren Corbin, Centershot director.

Feel free to visit **Centershot.org** to learn more about the ministry.

Thanks to all who volunteered and attended!



Thanks for your generosity! We collected enough food for 100 Hope Sacks to be given out to the homeless at the downtown library.



Basketball & Cheerleading



Ryan with former players now referees, Walt & Quincy.

It was a banner year for Upward Basketball as they had a record-breaking season of participation and teams. However the reality is that Upward would not be possible without all the volunteers giving their time, effort, dedication, and so much more to make the Upward ministry

a success. A big part of that success is Upward Director, Ryan Allmon.

"It was my hope that it was a fruitful experience for all the participants, families, and volunteers involved in this ministry. It's a privilege to get to shepherd these children and to be a part of this ministry."

"I really felt a call to go and serve and not be served. I had been a part of the church for some years, but I really didn't serve the church. I knew I wasn't blessed with a great voice, so I couldn't sing in the church choir! I knew I couldn't play a musical instrument (at least not in public), so I couldn't perform in worship. I knew my gift was helping and serving other people in some capacity. But, I also knew that I could teach a kid how to dribble a basketball, I could teach a kid how to shoot, I could teach a kid how to be a good teammate, how to care about others, and share scripture with them. I feel the greatest gift we have sometimes is our ability to invest our time in someone else's life for a greater purpose and mission."

St. James' Upward Basketball program is the only one within a 50-mile radius of Central Arkansas. The next closest Upward Basketball program is 54 miles from the St. James Campus. There are Upward Basketball programs located in Hot Springs, Pine Bluff, and Searcy. We do have other Upward programs in Central Arkansas that offer other sports (soccer and football), but we (St. James) are the only Upward Basketball program offered in Central Arkansas.

Ryan says he has a lot of favorite memories of the program through the years. But, one of his favorite is having the players say the pre-game prayer at the last game of the season. "That is a tradition that our Referee Commissioner, Bart Dickinson, started years ago. He will ask if anyone wants to say our pre-game prayer and pretty much every player every year will raise their hands. That tells me that all our volunteers and coaches were in pursuit to glorify the mission of Upward."

If you'd like to volunteer for next year's Upward Sports, please contact Ryan at rallmond@eaglebank.mortgage.



UPWARD 2022/2023 STATS

337 – Players
(most ever for an Upward Season)

14 – Cheerleaders

20 – Referees

44 – Basketball teams
(Most we have ever had for an Upward Season)

65 – Coaches/Assistant Coaches

154 – Games played over the course of 7 weeks

**352 – Practices conducted over
the course of 8 weeks**

**2,000 – Estimated spectators, fans, players,
coaches, volunteers, and staff members
that filled the Christian Life Center
each weekend this season**



Holy Week

Easter Lilies in
Honor or Memory
of a loved one.



To order your lily, scan the QR code here,
visit www.StJamesLR.org,
or pick up a form in the Welcome Center.
\$20 per lily - Deadline is April 1

PALM SUNDAY

All children are invited to join our Palm Parade!

Sunday, April 2 at 9:30 & 11:00am

Children will gather in the Great Hall to
prepare for the parade at 9:15 & 10:45am.

SEDER DINNER

You are invited to join us for a Seder (Passover)
dinner with Cindy & Scott Stern on
Wednesday, April 5 at 6:00pm in the Great Hall



Cost is \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and
younger. To register, scan the QR code here or
visit www.StJamesLR.org by Friday, March 31.



April 6 • 7pm • Sanctuary
Youth-Led

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The story of Jesus' life
and death during an experiential
Stations of the Cross.

April 7
8:30am-8:30pm
The Great Hall

GOOD FRIDAY

"REQUIEM" BY JOHN RUTTER

FEATURING THE ST. JAMES ADULT CHOIRS
AND GUEST MUSICIANS

APRIL 7 • 7:00PM • SANCTUARY

Easter
EGGSTRAVAGANZA

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
10:00AM

EASTER
AT ST. JAMES UMC

SUNDAY, APRIL 9
8:30 & 11:00am (Livestreamed) Sanctuary
9:30 (Livestreamed) & 11am Worship Center

Commemorative Gifts through March 15, 2023

In Memory of:

- Lou Ann Boone by Agape Sunday School, Carolyn Auffert, Elsie & Leon Townsend, Jo & Harry Leggett, Jacquelyn Murphy, Cherry & Jim Duckett, Lyn Curtis, Kelley & Bryan Dunlap, Joyce Underwood, Ardith Helms, Delores Ehrlich, Lori Llewellyn, Catherine Ball, John Hendricks & Marti's HFO Family, Christine Scarlett, Linda & Don Bacon, Carolyn Franke and Susan Elliott.
- Mitch LaGrone by Jacquelyn Murphy, Jennifer & Randy Coleman, Punkin & David Waddle, Susan & John Meador, Mary & Dhu Thompson, Suzanne & Rick Weaver, Anne & Stephen Douglas, Sara Harrison, Lucy & Charles Neal, Sallie Graves, Heather Bailey, and Linda & Don Bacon.
- Paul Cross by Fern Downs and Mitzie Westbrook.
- Joyce Peck by Carolyn Franke.
- Delbert Fambrough by Cherry & Jim Duckett.
- Evelyn Kiernan by Mitzie Westbrook.
- Cindy Hays by Brad Swiderski.
- Jody Henslee by Kathryn Peacock.
- Stevie Wood by Linda Barnes.

In Honor of:

- The Awesome 9:30 Worship Praise Bank by Karen Huber.

To the Birthday Endowment Fund:

- In honor of Sallie Graves by Sue Frank.
- In honor of Jacki Murphy's 95th Birthday by Susie Branon.

To Congregational Care:

- In memory of Lou Ann Boone by Susan & Michael O'Malley, and Jean & David Parham.

To Community of Hope:

- In memory of Lou Ann Boone by Susie Branon, & Danny Mays.
- In memory of Joyce Peck by Susie Branon.

To the Senior Ministry:

- In memory of Lou Ann Boone by Sue Frank.

To the Endowment Fund:

- In memory of Joyce Peck by Jacquelyn Murphy, Sue & James Henley, Mary Epperson, Sylvia & Frank Thomas, Sue Frank, Lori Llewellyn, Delores Ehrlich, Carol Ann & Hayley Henley, Dana Ritchie, Lolly Honea, Susan & John Meador, Jo & Harry Leggett, Jennifer & Randy Coleman, Jean & David Parham, Lucy & Charles Neal, Pam Wills, Susan Elliott, Peggy Sullivan, Cheryl & Cal Wells, and Shirley & George (Pinky) Davis.

- In memory of Paul Cross by Linda Derden.

- In memory of Evelyn Kiernan by Frances Jernigan.

- In honor of Sue Frank by Susie Branon.

To the Mission Fund:

- In memory of Evelyn Kiernan by Jan & Vaughn McQuary
- In memory of Delbert Fambrough by Ruth & Martha Johnston.

To the Music Ministry:

- In memory of Ross Honea by Kathryn Peacock and Robyn & Ron Blasingame.

To the Handbell Ministry:

- In memory of Felix Thompson by Mary Caldwell.

To New Challenges Sunday School Class:

- In memory Joyce Peck by Sharon & Dean Skaer, and Leilani Beach-Holmes.
- In memory of Mitch LaGrone by Sharon & Dean Skaer.

To Agape Class:

- In memory of Evelyn Kiernan by Karen Huber, Kim Akery, Scott Scherer, Carolyn & Max Davis, Jean & Joe Stimers, and Linda Spenk.

To Under the Bridge Ministry:

- In memory of Larry McAdams by Jean & David Parham.
- In memory of Ruthanne Murphy by Martin Robinson.

To UWF:

- In memory of Joyce Peck by Annette Williams.

To the Thompson Scholarship Fund:

- In honor of Jimmy Dugan, Amy Tackett, Beth Judd, Bobbye Burk, David Miller, Dr. & Mrs. Oscar Page, Jay McClelland, Joyce & David Scott, Karen Barnwell, Kathleen Just, Kathy Strock, Molly & Milton Robinson, Pam Sawyer, Pete Whitehurst, Robert Lindley, Shirley Hipwell and Vicki & Larry Davis by Martha Lynn Thompson.
- In honor of Martha Lynn Thompson by Kathleen Just.
- In memory of Felix Thompson by Charles Bonner, Kathleen Just, Robert Lindley, Glynda Tarpley, Sandra & Fred Haustein, Annette Williams, Ruth & Martha Johnston, and Elizabeth & John Carter.
- In memory of Joyce Peck, Lou Ann Boone, and Mitch LaGrone by Martha Lynn Thompson.
- In memory of Ross Honea by Patricia & Jack Lassiter, and Annette Williams.

Worship with Us....

Saturdays

- 5:30pm Casual Worship Sanctuary (in-person only)

Sundays

- 8:30 Traditional (in-person only)
- 9:30 Contemporary (in-person & live stream)
- 11:00 Traditional Service (in-person & live stream)
- 11:00 Contemporary (in-person only) beginning April 2

Watch the Livestream

On our website:

www.StJamesLR.org -

click on "Media" drop down to Livestream

On Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stjameslr

In Remembrance

(January-February)

Evelyn Kiernan

Paul Cross

Jody Henslee

Welcome New Members

Kathy Smith

Donna Smith

Karen & Trey Whatley

Becca & Nick Siria

Kaci & Luke Vance

If you would like to join St. James, contact Rev. Greg Schick, at 501-217-6706 or greg@stjameslr.org. New members forms are available at the Welcome Center information kiosk at Entrance 1.

Baptisms

Lillian James Bemberg

Daughter of

Geri & Clay Bemberg

PERIODICALS

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