

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Upcoming Events:

- August 9, 10:30 a.m. — Assemble Blessing Bags during fellowship
- August 12, 7:30 p.m. — ABIDE Silver Cord opportunity
- August 14, 8:00-5:00 p.m. and August 15, 8:00-3:00 p.m. — Rummage Sale
- August 16, 10:30 a.m. — Assemble canned fruit sculpture after worship.
- August 19, 7:30 p.m. — Grades 8-12 movie night
- August 22 & 23 — Blessing of the Backpacks during Worship
- Wednesday, September 2, 6:00 p.m. — Fall Kick-Off Picnic. Grilled hot dogs & brats, live music, bounce house, lawn games and more. Don't miss the fun!

NEW Wednesday Nights in August... Our Christian Neighbors

Pagliais Pizza@6pm, Conversation@6:30pm, Home@7:30pm

August 5 Pastor Bill O'Connell of St. Paul Presbyterian

August 12 Pastor Paul Scaringi of First Baptist

August 19 Susan Simms, Communications Director Iowa & Western Illinois Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

August 26 Pastor Debbie Griffin of Downtown Disciples, DOC
(FYI: Pastor Debbie is married to Pastor Bill)

NEW Connections Wednesdays, beginning in September. All are welcome!

- **Let's Play Hearts** (The Card Game) — Beginners and Old Pros Welcome, Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. Sign up at:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-64920625-connections#/>
- **Book/Movie Club** — I've Read that Book/I've Seen that Movie/Let's talk about it! Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. Sign up at:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-64920875-connections#/>

Saint James has once again entered the Food Sculpture Contest for Johnston Partnership. Last year we won the People's Choice award! This year's theme is "Fruit-Full Giving". We will be constructing an apple out of canned goods. Bring in your canned goods, especially cans with red labels (like Hunt's tomato products and Campbell's Soups) to church by Sunday, August 16, which is the day we will construct the sculpture. All food then gets donated to Johnston Partnership afterward.

Rummage Sale Youth Fundraiser! On Friday (8/14) and Saturday (8/15) we will have a Rummage Sale at Saint James to benefit our students attending the National Youth Gathering in June 2027. Donations are welcome and collection dates are as follows:

- Thursday 8/6 from 4-6pm
- Sunday 8/9 from 11am-1pm
- Thursday 8/13 from 9am-12pm and 3pm-5pm

All items not sold at the end of the event will be donated to Hope Ministries Thrift Store on Merle Hay Road. We are looking for boxes for packing any unsold items. Please contact Kristin with questions at youth@stjamesjohnston.org Sign up to help at the sale here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054CA4A928A5F49-64768025-rummage>

Prayer of the Day

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor. The lesson begins...

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,] [Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions. The lessons begins...

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous

to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

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

Prayers of Intercession

With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation... We pray for the servants of your gospel in every place, that your word may be heard. Where your voice is scorned and your people persecuted, strengthen the church in its faithful witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this world you have created, that all life may flourish. Preserve biodiversity in all its variety and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate. Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For leaders of towns, states, nations, and organizations, and all who are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity. Teach us to respond with Christlike mercy to all who are afraid or in danger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation and its ministries, that they reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world. Guide council members, elders, and other church leaders with your still, calm voice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us. Guide us in our earthly journey, that we may one day join them in your eternal kingdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

What's Happening

August 5-7

- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga
6:00pm Community meal (freewill donations)
6:30pm *Conversations with Our Christian Neighbors:*
Pastor Bill O'Connell of St Paul Presbyterian
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee
4:00-6:00pm Collection drop off for rummage sale items
- Friday Church Offices Closed

August 8-14

- Saturday 5:00pm Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
- Sunday 9:30am Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
10:30am Fellowship
11:00am-1:00pm Collection drop off for rummage sale items
- Monday Bible Study in person
10:30am Chair Yoga
- Tuesday 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group at HyVee
Online Bible Study ([Connect Here](#))
8:00pm AA meeting, all are welcome
- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga
6:00pm Community meal (freewill donations)
6:30pm *Conversations with Our Christian Neighbors:*
Pastor Paul Scaringi of First Baptist
- Thursday 7:30pm ABIDE silver cord opportunity
9:00am Women's Coffee
9am-12pm Collection drop off for rummage sale items
3pm-5pm Collection drop off for rummage sale items
- Friday Church Offices Closed

Celebrations August 8-14:

Birthdays: Anna Toot, Marilyn Kofmehl, Cathy Benziger

Anniversaries: Terry & Carol Warmbier

Connect with Us!

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www.StJamesJohnston.org Here you can connect to:

- Our online service and our online giving portal
- Our calendar
- Our Online Bible Study
- Our staff and much more!

Text Pastor Bill at 515.669.7631 or Email Pastor Bill at Pastor@StJamesJohnston.org

First time visitor? Email Pastor for a Welcome gift.

