August 2026

Volume 25
Issue 7

The Voice of St. James

175 Years & Beyond

Summer Gratitude

WORSHIP
Sundays
10 am
Live & via Zoom
&
Wednesday
7pm

Share the welcome.

Invite a friend.

Use below to connect to Zoom Link

As August settles in, we find ourselves in that quiet stretch of summer where the days feel a little slower, the evenings a little softer, and God's presence a little easier to notice. It's a season that invites us to breathe deeply, look around, and give thanks.

Scripture reminds us that rest is not a luxury, it's holy. *"He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul."* (Psalm 23:2–3) Summer gives us glimpses of those still waters: a peaceful morning, a shaded porch, a family picnic, a moment of silence before the day begins. These small pauses become sacred spaces where God restores us.

August is also a time to practice gratitude. We give thanks for the

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beauty of creation, for time with family and friends, for the ministries that continue even in quieter months, and for the ways God has carried us through the first half of the year. *"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever."* (Psalm 136:1)

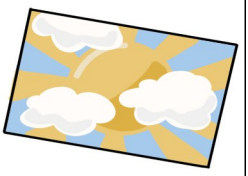
As we move toward the busy fall season, may this month be a gentle reminder that rest is part of discipleship, gratitude is part of worship, and God meets us not only in the big moments, but in the slow, sun-soaked days of summer too.

May August be a blessing to you: restful, renewing, and filled with God's steady love.

2nd - Kimberlee Moran
5th - Ed Volpa
24th - Sage Houck
25th - Betty Haines

Make a Postcard Puzzle

Summer is full of little moments that remind us that God is guiding each step. Like a puzzle, he brings every piece together in his time.

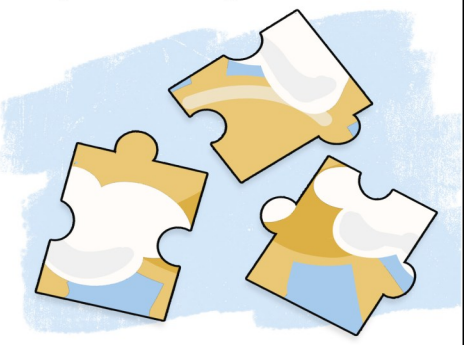


What you need:

- A postcard or printed picture
- Scissors
- Pencil (optional, for guiding your cuts)
- Envelope or small bag (for storing pieces)

What you do:

1. Flip your postcard over and lightly draw puzzle shapes or cut freely.
2. Cut the postcard into a mix of big and small pieces.
3. Mix up the pieces and try to put the picture back together.
4. Store the pieces in an envelope so you can use it again later.



August Worship Volunteers

2nd - Mario Triboletti
9th - Ed Volpa
16th - VOLUNTEER NEEDED
23rd - Judy May
30th - Jim Valenti

We are looking for volunteers to help with communion. If you are willing and available, we invite you to sign up. Scheduling can be flexible, as we can work around specific dates or coordinate with your scheduled reading times, if you are already a reader. Please sign up in the narthex or reach out to Amanda to let her know when you'd like to volunteer.

2nd - Betty Pollock & Rose Jones
9th - Betty Pollock & Rose Jones
16th - Betty Pollock & Rose Jones
23rd - Betty Pollock & Rose Jones
30th - Betty Pollock & Rose Jones

2nd - Volunteers Needed
9th - Mario Triboletti & Rose Jones
16th - Mario Triboletti & Rose Jones
23rd - Mario Triboletti & Rose Jones
30th - Volunteers Needed

AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5 7pm Evening Devotions	6	7	8
9 10am Worship	10	11	12 1pm God's Stitchers 7pm Evening Devotions	13	14	15
16 10am Worship and Blessing of the Backpacks	17 Sale Ends	18 6:30pm Outreach	19 7pm Evening Devotions	20	21	22
23 10am Worship with Bryan Stites	24	25	26 1pm God's Stitchers Tea Party 7pm Evening Devotions	27	28	29
30 10am Worship	31					

POPCORN SALE

AA Groups
Tue - 7pm
Wed - 7pm
(Women only)
Fri - 8 pm
Sat - 6:30pm
Sun - 7:30pm

Diaper Drive Success!

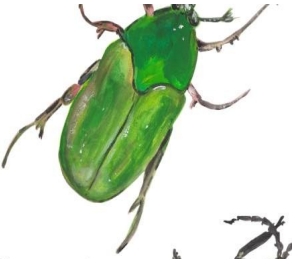
Thank you, St. James family! Our diaper drive for **Prevent Child Abuse–NJ** collected **hundreds of diapers** for local babies and families. PCANJ publicly thanked our congregation for their generosity and support. A simple act with a big impact.

VBS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday School classes will resume in September. The exact dates will be shared as they become available.

We are pleased to again collaborate with the Presbyterian Church of Hammonton to offer Vacation Bible School. Please refer to the flyer on the next page for details. You may register in advance or sign up at the door on the first day of the program.



Vacation Bible School

August 9-13

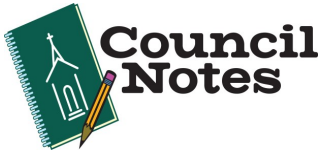
6:00-8:30pm

All ages welcome
(*middle and high students will be teacher aides and can receive volunteer hours*)

Presbyterian Church at Hammonton
326 Bellevue Ave

For questions call (609) 561-0168

Register online in advance or in-person



June Meeting Highlights

Council reviewed ministry updates, finances, and ongoing projects. Pastor shared recent worship planning, pastoral care visits, and upcoming events including Family & Friends Night on June 22 and continued collaboration with the Presbyterian Church.

Council approved preparing a mid-year financial update to help members understand our budget needs and giving trends. Work continues on exploring digital giving options.

Property updates included several completed projects, new trash cans, repairs to the rear steps, and plans to pressure-wash the parsonage. Council is also looking into smart thermostats to help manage energy costs.

Outreach efforts continue with diaper and migrant worker supply collections, plus planning for school-supply donations and Trunk or Treat. No blueberry sale this year, so Council will explore new fundraising ideas.

Council is monitoring a proposed Folsom ordinance that may affect community events and will share updates as more information becomes available.

July Meeting Highlights

Council met to review ministry updates, property needs, and upcoming events. Pastor Pam shared recent pastoral care, including home and hospital visits, several funerals, and ongoing work on the *Who Is My Neighbor?* video series with Pastor Sutphin. Pride in the Park was a success, and July's game night was canceled due to weather. Upcoming events include Dine Out and Vacation Bible School with Hammonton Presbyterian from August 9–13, followed by a pool party.

The President reported that Folsom currently has no event ordinance, and St. James will be exempt if one is created. Planning continues for our Community Picnic on September 12 and Folsom Community Day on September 19.

Property updates included pressure washing the parsonage, scheduling Phase Two of basement cleaning, and beginning work on replacing the stained glass storm window. The prayer garden received post-storm cleanup, and efforts are underway to address a dead tree in the cemetery. Work also continues on renovating the church sign.

The next Council meeting will be held on September 21. There is no August meeting.

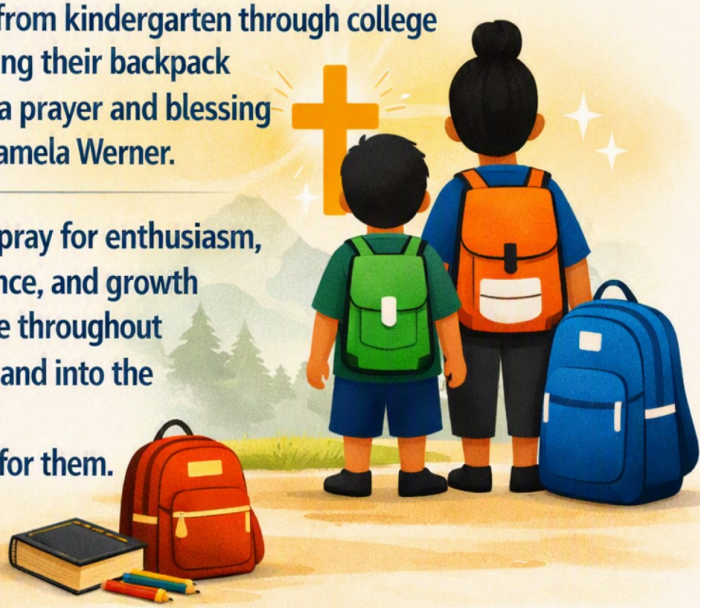
Join us on Sunday, August 16
during worship for

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

A special moment for all students at St. James as we lift up the new school year.

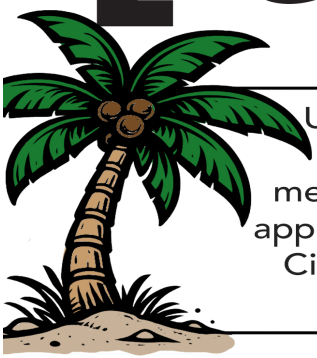
Every student from kindergarten through college is invited to bring their backpack to worship for a prayer and blessing led by Pastor Pamela Werner.

Together we'll pray for enthusiasm, safety, confidence, and growth in faith and love throughout the year ahead and into the bright futures God is shaping for them.



Be strong and Courageous.

Puzzle!



Use the Scripture verses below to locate the places in the puzzle. (If a verse mentions more than one place, only one appears in the puzzle, so choose carefully.) Circle each place as you find it.

Answers go: → ↓ ↘

Genesis 2:15
Genesis 11:9
Genesis 35:1
Exodus 13:18
Ruth 1:1
1 Kings 18:19
1 Chronicles 11:4
Isaiah 23:1
Isaiah 23:2
Isaiah 23:3
Jonah 1:2
Matthew 3:6
Matthew 4:18
Matthew 26:36
Luke 24:13
John 2:1
Acts 8:5
Acts 11:22
Acts 17:16
Romans 1:15

S I D O N G N I L E S O
J J O R D A N R I V E R
E S G A A R C A N A A M
R A E T B D C D B E O O
U M T H B E T H E L F U
S A H E T N E A T N G N
A R S N Y O M N H I A T
L I E S R F M T L N L C
E A M D E E A I E E I A
M F A R S D U O H V L R
G H N O A E S C E E E M
I J E M B N A H M H E E
T O W E R O F B A B E L

Answers: Garden of Eden, Tower of Babel, Bethel, Red Sea, Bethlehem, Mount Carmel, Jerusalem, Tyre, Sidon, Nile, Nineveh, Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Emmaus, Cana, Samaria, Antioch, Athens, Rome

ST. JAMES OUTREACH
Double Good Fundraiser

August 10, 5 pm - August 17, 5 pm

This fundraiser is in support of our PULLING FOR VETS DINNER

50% of every purchase will assist with purchasing needed items.

Scan to purchase delicious popcorn from my store!

Or go to DoubleGood.com and use the code: RJV YTU

Looking ahead...

St. James Choir Resumes - *September*

Community Picnic - *September 12, 12-3pm*
Cookout, ice cream, games and more with our local community.

Folsom Community Day - *September 19*

Blessing of the Pets - *October 11:00am*

Our Altar Flower Memorial Program offers a meaningful way to honor loved ones while helping provide the flowers that brighten our altar each week.

If you'd like to donate altar flowers, please review the available dates below and place the completed form in the offering plate.

On Sundays when both vases are open, you may choose to sponsor one or both.

The following dates are still available:

Both Vases ($40):
August 23, November 15 & 29
One Vase ($20):
May 17, August 16

ALTAR FLOWER SIGNUP

Please note the available Sunday you would like to donate altar flowers.

Please see the list of available dates on the previous page.

DATE: Sunday, _____

The Altar flowers should be dedicated as follows:

In Memory/Honor/Celebration/Thanksgiving of:

_____

_____

By_____

PLEASE CIRCLE BELOW IF YOU ARE DONATING ONE VASE AT $20 OR TWO VASES FOR $40.

The cost of the flowers is $20/vase, or $40 for both.

You will be billed at the time of your scheduled donation.

Please remit your check payable to: *St. James Lutheran Church, 1341 Mays Landing Road, Folsom, NJ 08037.*

Would you like to continue your donation for 2027?

___YES ___NO

If you checked yes, we will automatically add you to our schedule for 2027.

Please Pray for:

Dolores Fiori, Laura Librizzi, Claire Gilmore, Diane Eby, Hannah Bonchi, Rita Ricca, Mario Triboletti, Betty Haines, Gillian Lee Phillips, Dorcas Schellhas, Maggie Rider, Ed Shine, Marlene Triggian, Bob & Ellie Frietag, Dan P., Christina Spahn, George Cappucio, Tom Dixon, Arlene Calletta, Mike Fountas, Nick Pobletti, Bill Link, Sophie Stites, Arlene Deptula, Thomas Rose, Linda Slater, Chip Stewart, Octavia Marie, Lisa D'Ambrosia, Chenza Cerrato, Charlie Patton, Ed Marinelli, RoseAnn Lucca, Mia Arrison, Carol Ann Conner, Will Longtin, Patricia Dudley, Peggy Bucceri, Rita Sarro, Robert DelRoss, John Thame, Gaelen Houck, Rosie Ranier, Paul Morris, Corenne Hickey, Walter Meinke, Tennile Limbaugh, Chick Kisby, Carol Kaplan, Alex McKee, Sharon Rossiter, Justin Stewart, Sean Bennett, Yuri Zaitsev, Joseph Brigandi Jr., Jack Reitz, Ed Volpa, Althea Seidel, Colleen Kase, Michael Hozik, Linda Esposito, Gary Quattrochi.

and For the NJ SYNOD, Bishop Compton and staff, and ELCA Bishop Curry, and its ministries.

CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor Pamela Werner — C 609-335-3083
Laffinggal@comcast.net — O 609-561-4488
Office Administrator - Amanda Dilks — C 609-204-5516
O 609-561-4488
stjameslutheran@folsom.comcastbiz.net

Office Hours - Wednesdays & Thursdays
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
All other times by appointment

CHURCH COUNCIL

Jayne Carmen - President
Colleen Kase - Secretary
Bryan Stites
Judy May - Vice Pres.
Patti Zellers
Mario Triboletti

Worship - Sundays 10 am
Live and Via Zoom
Link on www.stjamesfolsom.org

Our Mission

Welcoming all people to abide in Christ,
to experience God's love, and
to do God's work in the world around us.

St. James Lutheran Church
1341 Mays Landing Rd.
Folsom, NJ 08037

Visit our Website at www.stjamesfolsom.org