



## Weekly Announcements

July 30, 2020

Dear friends & parishioners of St. James,

You all are aware that businesses have been fundamentally affected or altered by the ongoing pandemic. This is far from breaking news. Like St. James, churches across the country have seen a drop in giving as we are not meeting for in-person worship, seen in both a drop in pledges and other gifts put in the offering plate. Many are rightfully, and understandably, concerned about their household income in uncertain times.



As your rector, my responsibility is to be a steward - be that people, buildings, finances, and for the future. This week I have made some of the more difficult decisions in my ordained ministry. Effective July 27th, I have cut staff hours and wages that reflect the reality of the work needed during this time. Both Rita Klock and Roy Rosenthal are now working part time, in staggered shifts, to maintain church office hours from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday-Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. While this change for the two of them was accelerated because of COVID-19, the reality is that the school's closing and our church size placed us already on a path toward less office activity. Simply put, our office demands are diminished. In addition, Michael Sterne and Eileen DeBoer will see a reduction in pay for this time we are unable to meet safely as a congregation.

Any benefits for the staff, such as health care and pensions, will be honored and paid for.

This personnel decision has not been made quickly or lightly, and comes after multiple conversations with executive vestry leadership and staff members. In the midst of these conversations we continued to pay staff at their full time rate, but we have simply reached an intersection where this is no longer prudent as stewards of the church.

I will be assuming more responsibilities in terms of overseeing and working behind the scenes on our online presence and communications - from weekly announcements, to Facebook posts of sermons and music from Michael and Eileen, keeping our website up to date, to offering new online formation in early fall.

Life has shifted at St. James in these past few months, and we promise to be here for you while we must follow a budget that is both responsible and reflects our new reality.

Life is changed, not ended...

Tim Heflin+  
Rector

## August 2<sup>nd</sup> Worship Services

A combined order of service & readings can be found on our church website by clicking [here](#).

Please note that you may have to copy & paste the Zoom link.

## Morning Prayer @ 10:30 AM via Zoom

Led by Fr. Tim, Deacon Michael, & Dann Eudy

Join us via the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83345565693>

## Evening Prayer @ 5:00 PM via Zoom

Led by Fr. Tim & Dave Curry

Join us via the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82959224996>



## Upcoming Adult Formation

A Rabbi & Priests in Conversation about God & the Pandemic

Via Zoom on Sundays @ 9:00 AM & Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM

Join Fr. Tim for conversations based on N.T. Wright's latest book - *God and The Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and It's Aftermath*.

Our conversations begin on **Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>** and we finish on **Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**. Meetings are offered on Wednesdays and Sundays so folks can drop in at a convenient time.

As part of this series, Rabbi Bruce Aft will join us on Wednesday, **September 02<sup>nd</sup>** and **September 09<sup>th</sup>** to talk about reading the Hebrew scriptures (Old Testament) in light of personal ill fortune or national calamity.

"Who is to blame?" is one of the most ancient and enduring questions we have asked as a humans when bad things happen. Both Bishop N.T. Wright and Rabbi Bruce will lend their voices to help us better understand our knee-jerk reactions and find ways to work for peace and hope as people of faith.

Bruce is a friend of Fr. Tim's, and the recently retired rabbi of Congregation Adat Reyim in Springfield, VA, where he served for 29 years. Rabbi Aft is currently a visiting scholar at George Mason University, at the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution. He is the current board president for Operation Understanding DC, and has served on the boards of Jewish Education of Greater Washington (DC) and the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington (DC).

Despite the joint work of Fr. Tim and Rabbi Bruce on the crucial matters of racial and religious reconciliation/understanding, they remain deeply divided on the best baseball team in Chicago: Cubs (Fr. Tim's adopted team as a resident of Chicago) or White Sox (Rabbi Bruce's hometown team).

## We Depend on Your Generosity...Thank You!

In this time of suspended indoor church services, we ask for your continued financial support of St. James, as it is essential for our sustainability. There are several ways you can support St. James:

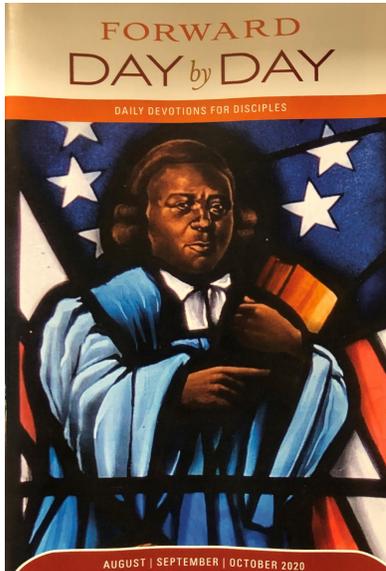
- Mail your pledge or other gifts directly to the church office.
- Consider setting up an automatic draft from your savings or checking account.
- Some of our parishioners make use of a tax deduction by paying their pledge with a stock transfer donation. Please be advised that St. James has a new brokerage account that can receive donations of stock. Roy is available to answer any questions about how to make

these transfers.

- Go to a link on our church website and check out the options for giving, including a "virtual plate offering" in the midst of our virtual gathering and you cannot put money into a physical offering plate. You can find that link by clicking [here](#).

Please call Roy Rosenthal @ 445.9845 if you have any questions.

Again - thank you for supporting St. James!!!



## Forward Day by Day

August-September-October 2020

published by Forward Movement

A very popular devotional, *Forward Day by Day* is a booklet of meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer. The meditations are rich in substance and offer a wide range of witness and experiences. Each month's meditation is written by a different author.

Call the church office @ 445.9845 to reserve a copy.

A limited number of large print copies are available.

## What Fr. Tim is Reading

### My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel

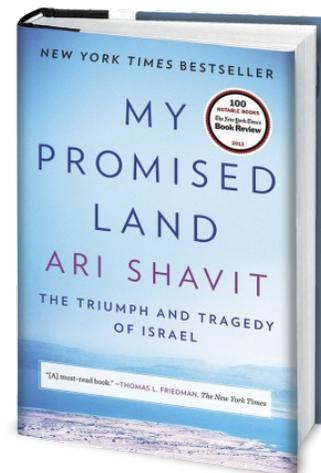
by Ari Shavit

Random House, 2013

There is a distinct difference between the ancient people of Israel described in the Hebrew scriptures compared to the modern political state of Israel. The two are not the same, and even today Orthodox Jews are in increasing tension with their more secular Jewish neighbors about what makes one truly Jewish.

In this *New York Times* bestseller, Ari Shavit tells a personal story about grappling with his family's history of Zionism, from persecuted Jews seeking a home they believe was promised to them by God, to the modern complexity of Israel serving as a defacto occupying army. For Shavit, Israel is a nation in doubt, divided between the religious presence and the ever-changing political world, still answering age-old questions about its identity. Shavit struggles to understand a persecuted minority that is now defying U.N. directives and international law to build settlements in the West Bank and squeeze out Palestinians from their homeland. Whose home and land is it? Can they exist as two states? Who is Israel?

Ari Shavit is a retired reporter of the daily Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, and this book was described as one of the best up to date, fair analysis of the present conflict between Israel and Palestine.



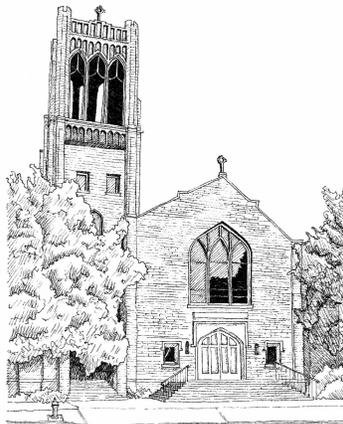
## Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

*David Lemaire, Joe Schoolcraft, Jed and Family, James Jay Watts, Janet Ahrens, Carl Ahrens, Beth Virden, Benny Leggett, Glenn Guillory, Bill Hess, Karen Donahue, Charlotte Thrift, Margaret Broussard, Jim and Kathy Clement, Allie Bunyog, Karen Holt, The Ford Family, Dean M. Tyree, Linda & John Bazer, Chad Dupree, Raina, Ron Kingston, Cecile Brunson, Felicia, Linda Green, Bill Clancey, Barry Mercer, Annie, Jimmy Hurt, Jackie Jeanne, Michael Gray, Carol Rowe, Jaclyn Cutrone, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Bruce Gremillion, Murel Trimble, Bernard Parker, Charlie, Emily Gerard, Betty Anne Close, Mark Goldich, Jim Brackett, Janet Fuqua, Bill Leibke, Deborah Taylor, Jeremy and Becky Corbett, Sarah, Jackie Moody, Grace Heeralall, Don Parker, Micah Johnson, Henry Wells, Wayne Moorehead, Sarah, Doug Brackett, Ann, Pat Carter, Amy Banks, Ann Anderson, Katrina Hall, Dr. Jack Jackson, Elizabeth Thompson Sawyer, Diane and Mike Walding, Brenda, Julie Stewart, Richard Norem, Robert Broadwell, Brenda, Cyndi, Kevin Hooter, Warren Paul, James Parham, Timothy Futrell, Cindy Smith, David Warren, Jane Tyson, Laura Waring, Carrigan, Allison, Anna, Dennis Hart, Gerard, Hannah Pierce, John McLure, Rachel Gardner, Cathy Deshotel Guillory, Lou Stafford, Wes Fidler, Allie Thompson, Marjorie Deshotel, Tanya and John Self, Peggy Brian, Heather Craig, C. J. Guillory, and Mehre Hajighassem.*

**For those in the military:**

*Steven Brevelle, Franklin Watson, Kyle Jordan, Gill Tatman-Tyree, Garon Taylor-Tyree, William Henry, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Kenneth O. Musselwhite, Erskine Cook, Jr., Steven P. Lemoine, Jeffery Michael Musselwhite, Captain Patrick Downs, Chris Babcock, and Sequoia Green.*



[Visit our Website](#)

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