



Weekly Announcements December 30, 2020

There is a tendency for us to flee from the wild silence and the wild dark,
to pack up our gods and hunker down behind city walls,
to turn the gods into idols, to kowtow before them
and approach their precincts only in the official robes of office.

And when we are in the temples, then who will hear the voice crying in the wilderness?
Who will hear the reed shaken in the wind?

Chet Raymo
The Soul of the Night

Church Office Closed

Please note the office will be closed
December 31 and January 1.
We wish you God's peace as we enter a new calendar year!



resolute: adjective

Dear friends of St. James,

It's that time of year many of us make resolutions for the new year: exercise more, eat healthier and lose some weight, listen to the doctor, pray more, read more or take a class, read the Bible, or be better at staying in touch with family and friends. We determine to be resolute, and so we make promises, if even to ourselves.

The foundation of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam begins with Abraham, who responded to Yahweh's (LORD or Jehovah in our English Bibles) desire for relationship, declaring that he (Abraham) and all later generations would worship only one God. Abraham entered into a relationship initiated by God; for centuries our scripture has referred to God's resolve to keep this relationship as a covenant.

God continued this relationship with the Hebrew people even when they felt most lost. One scholar of Hebrew scripture writes that there is a deeply etched memory that overrides all other memories for the people of Israel: their origin in the wilderness.* This unwavering, steadfast, or unshakeable notion that Yahweh delivered the Hebrew tribes from bondage, and later resided with them in the desert, is, perhaps, the important event in understanding this covenant between God and God's people.

In Christmas and "heavy" theological speak: God is with us.

We all have asked "where is God?" in the most difficult, trying times of our life, or even in the plain, great ordinariness of the days and years that seem to roll by. In response to these same heart-felt emotions and philosophical questions, the preeminent Jewish scholar and writer Abraham Heschel wrote the best-selling book, *God in Search of Man*. Heschel, a survivor himself of dark and evil times (he was arrested and sent to Poland by the Gestapo), reminds us that from the very beginning of our scripture it is God who first comes looking for us. It is God who initiates life and initiates relationships. God makes all things new.

As we make resolutions in the days ahead – be they made playfully or in full promise and determination – let's pause to remember another definition of resolve: God comes in search for us. God desires a relationship and love affair with us. This is single-minded, steadfast, unwavering, unfaltering, strong-willed, purposeful, and unshakeable.

Happy New Year - and good luck with your resolutions!

Tim Heflin+
Rector

**Understanding the Old Testament* by Bernhard Anderson

Ministry Fund

*"A child bringing the light of hope to a dark world.
I suppose that's what Christmas is all about really."
Nancy Atherton*

This year, 2020, has indeed been dark for so many people. Yet, the light of hope has been shining throughout our community by way of the St. James congregation! The Ministry Fund, which is funded through the generosity of so many who come to St. James, provided **127 families** with **\$29,628.54** - to help with rent, utilities, insurance, and even a burial. All are very thankful for the assistance! Know that the love St. James extends to our community radiates not only at Christmas but throughout the year!

The Ministry Fund is a form of outreach beyond the church's operating budget, and one that comes from individual contributions in addition to their annual pledge. These funds are earmarked specifically for local, acute needs for food, rental and/or utility assistance, and they are administered by the church office on a case by case basis, and in coordination with other churches and non-profit organizations.

Thanks to all of you who faithfully support this ministry!

Honoring The Rev. Dr. David Britt Sunday, January 10 @ 10:30AM

We welcome David Britt as the preacher for our in-person Eucharist, as we celebrate his retirement at the end of January, and honor him for 24 years of service as the past President & CEO of the United Way of Central Louisiana.

"Well done, good and faithful servant."



January 03 2nd Sunday of Christmas In-person Eucharist @ 10:30 AM

Fr. Jim Theus presiding & Fr. Tim preaching.

Readings for the Eucharist
can be found [by clicking here](#).

January 03 2nd Sunday of Christmas Online Evening Prayer @ 5:00 PM



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

Led by Fr. Tim & Fred Alexius via this ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86348984077?pwd=Zmg5RjVMVUt6Q3dhaU0zbUxMZ1p0Zz09>

Or call:
1.312.626.6799
and enter
Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077
Passcode: 1620

Online Adult Formation

Epiphany!
Wednesday, January 6
@ 6:30 PM

**Bring Your King Cake &
a Piece of Chalk or a Pencil**

Bring your favorite type of King Cake and beverage to the table -
and in front of your camera as we celebrate Epiphany.
The Magi certainly travelled an unexpected, winding road to greet the Child
- and we will do the same!

Bring a piece of chalk or a pencil for what might be another surprise!

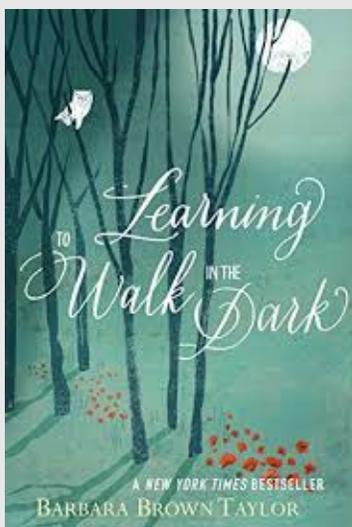
Join us via this ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85218338648?pwd=VUF5Ny9kbGZUTW11WTZMYVZkZDhPZz09>

Or call:
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**Recommendations for a New Year's
Reading Resolution**

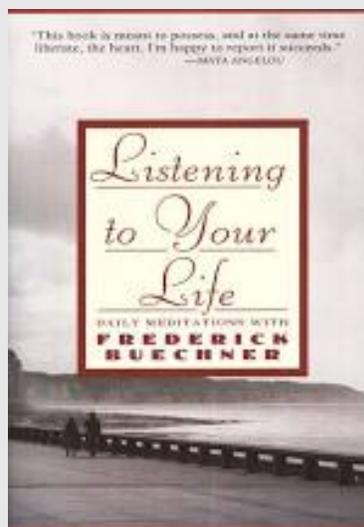
These are Fr. Tim's suggestions to get you started in the New Year!



Learning to Walk in the Dark
Barbara Brown Taylor

A book from an Episcopal priest and one of America's great preachers, storytellers, and writers.

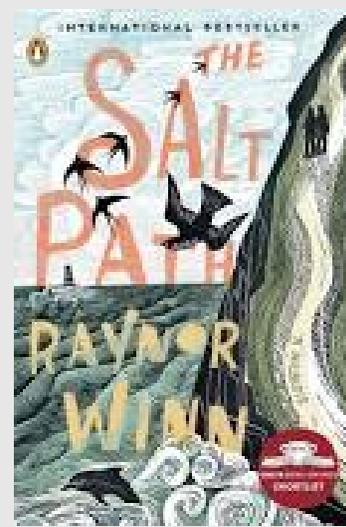
"The way most people talk about darkness, you would think that it came from a whole different deity, but no. To be human is to live by sunlight and moonlight, with anxiety and delight, admitting limits and transcending them, falling down and rising up. To want a life with only half of these things in it is to want half a life..."



Listening to Your Life
Frederick Buechner

Are you looking for a theologically accessible, easy to read, daily devotional for 2021? Look no further! This is a great devotional I have recommended, or bought for others, since its publication in 1992. I cannot praise it enough. You enter another world with Buechner's words, one of this generation's best storytellers about life and faith.

Trust me on this one!



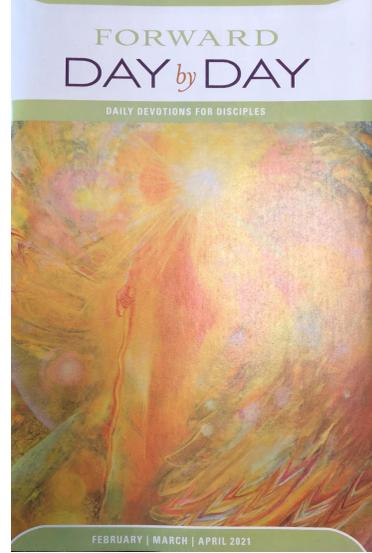
The Salt Path
Raynor Winn

In this international bestseller, you meet a married couple in their mid-50s who lose their Cornwall farm and business due to a bad investment with a friend. They are evicted and become homeless. And the husband, Moth, is diagnosed at the same time with a rare, terminal disease - corticobasal degeneration - that affects motor skills. Faced with all of this, and no viable options or immediate plans, Ray and Moth choose to hike/walk 630 miles along the South West Coast Path - simply putting one foot in front of another.

Forward Day by Day
February-March-April

This popular devotional has just arrived!

Call the office @ 445.9845 to reserve a copy you can pick up, or have one mailed to you.



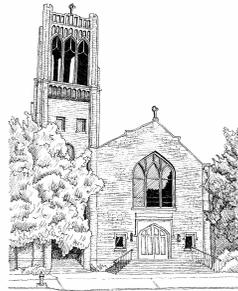
Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

Johnnie Hart, Jerry Neal, Taylor Thompson, Todd Fuller, Jane Y. Harris, Emily, Chase Barnfield, Jess Cook, Kip Hogue, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Janet Ahrens, Carl Ahrens, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Edna Schoolcraft, Karen Donahue, Jimmy Hurt, Charlotte Thrift, Mesta Bain, Tommy Jean, Margaret Broussard, Allie Bunyog, Karen Holt, Dean M. Tyree, Linda & John Bazer, Ron Kingston, Cecile Brunson, Felicia, Bill and Rita Clancey, Barry Mercer, Annie, Jackie Jeanne, Jaclyn Cutrone, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Bruce Gremillion, Murel Trimble, Charlie, Emily, Betty Anne Close, Janet Fuqua, Bill Leibke, Sarah, Jackie Moody, Henry Wells, Sarah, Amy Banks, Wayne and Barbara Moorehead, Pat Carter, Dr. Jack Jackson, Richard Norem, Kevin Hooter, Warren Paul, Timothy Futrell, Cindy Smith, Jane Tyson, Laura Waring, Gerard, and Mehre Hajjhassem.

For those in the military:

Steven Rougeau, Steven Brevelle, Franklin Watson, Kyle Jordan, Gill Tatman-Tyree, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Steven P. Lemoine, Captain Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.



[Visit our Website](#)

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