



Saint James Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

A "Matthew 25" Congregation

820 Ross Avenue • Greensboro, NC 27406 • 336-273-6658 • www.stjamespresby.org "Touching Lives Through Jesus Christ!"

Reverend Dr. Phanta I. Lansden, Senior Pastor

September 2023 Edition

Welcome To Saint James Presbyterian Church!

The members of the Saint James Presbyterian Church are pleased to have you worship with us during the month of September. We ask that you kindly fill out our electronic visitor's card located here: https://forms.gle/L33q5q23H92pnnrV9. You can also contact us during worship through our Zoom chat, our FB Messenger or send an email after worship to: office@stjamespresby.org. We would like to have a record of your visit and a way to keep you updated on what is happening here at Saint James. Your information will remain confidential. Welcome

Are you interested in joining Saint James?

We welcome you to join Saint James Presbyterian Church and are committed to helping you grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ. You may become a member of the Saint James Presbyterian Church in one of the following ways: (1) You can fill out our electronic visitors card located here: https://forms.gle/L33q5q23H92pnnrV9 and we will reach out to you. (2) You can contact us during worship through our Zoom chat, our FB Messenger or send an email after worship to: office@stjamespresby.org. We look forward to helping you make this decision!

Connect With Us!
Office Phone Number: 336-273-6658

Saint James Office Staff:

Ms. Nicole Campbell, Temporary Administrative Coordinator Elder Andrea Russell, Business Manager Elder Timisha Corpening, Treasurer

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjamespresby Follow us on Twitter: @stjames gsonc Follow us on Instagram: @saintjamespresbync Visit our Website: www.stjamespresby.org

Our Purpose Statement:

"The purpose of Saint James Presbyterian Church is to touch lives through Jesus Christ by providing joyful worship, life changing teaching, warm community, and dynamic, meaningful ministries that serve to bring a new generation of believers to Christ and to nurture those who are already growing in faith."

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WORSHIP

Saint James worship services & shared community worship opportunities.

Virtual Order of Worship:

Count down

Announcements

Opening Song of Praise Hymn First Sundays

Opening Prayer

Welcome/Greetings

Offertory Prayer

Call to Offering

Sermonic Selection

Scripture Reading

Sermon

Holy Communion on First Sundays

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Benediction & Closing Song

September Participants:

Worship Leader:

Rev. Dr. Phanta I. Lansden

Worship Elders:

Elder Tyrone Collins

Elder Karen Watts-Yehudah

Musicians:

Mr. William Brown, Minister of Music

Dr. Ronald Campbell, Organist & Keyboardist

Mr. Nick Hayes, Percussionist



September Lectionary

Let's continue reading together! As we journey into the month of September, let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by reading the scheduled lectionary texts each week.

The texts are listed below. Before you read each text, practice a few minutes of centering prayer to clear your mind. Pray for clarity and focus. While reading, physically or mentally take notes so that you can summarize what the scripture is saying. Finally, go back and pick out any themes or recurring ideas that may be relevant to your personal life, Saint James or the church at large. Close your reading time with a Prayer of Thanksgiving for God's word and revelation.

1st Sunday

•Matthew 16:21-28

2nd Sunday

•Matthew 18:15-20

3rd Sunday

•John 3:13-17

4th Sunday

•Matthew 18:21-25

WORSHIP Saint James worship services & shared community worship opportunities.

Join us for in-person worship!
Visit <u>www.stjamespresby.org</u> for registration information
Virtual service options are also available!

To join us online at Zoom for our Sunday Service:

Click the link here -----> https://zoom.us/j/742365808

To join us on our conference call,

dial in to: 929-205-6099

Enter Meeting ID: 742 365 808#

(This Meeting ID is just for our Sunday Service and virtual sanctuary hangout)

You can also join us live on our YouTube Channel: Click the link here -----> <u>Saint James Presbyterian Church YouTube Page</u>

Join our live Sunday Service stream on Facebook.

Click the link here -----> <u>www.facebook.com/stjamespresby</u>

To visit our Facebook page:

<u>www.facebook.com/stjamespresby</u>

or visit <u>www.facebook.com</u>

Go to the search bar and type in "St. James Presbyterian Church"
Click on the picture of our logo!
Visit our website to sign up for email updates.

www.stjamespresby.org

<u>Did you miss any services?</u> Our services are now on YouTube! You can find all of our Sunday and Special Services on our YouTube page. All of our Bible Studies are continually added as well! Please click the link to enjoy any one of our services that you may have missed. Click the link above to watch.

Serve Around the Church

Ushers

Would you like to serve on a phenomenal team? We are looking for volunteers to serve as Ushers for our Sunday morning services. Please reach out to any usher on Sunday or contact the church office for more details!

Choir

Can you sing? Join the choir! We are looking for people to share their musical talents with us. Choir rehearsals are held every Tuesday from 6-7 pm. See any choir or praise team member for more information on joining.

WORSHIP Saint James worship services & shared community worship opportunities

Happy Birthday to our members born in September!!



Daisy D. Boone
Terence Burris
Hyla Cundiff
Jamilliah Halley
Charles E. Knox
Clarence Jolly Jr.
Nancy Rives
Oscar Reid

Sharon C. Smiley

Chris Young



The church will celebrate birthdays occurring between July and the end of the year, in December. The date will be announced in November!

Please remember to send us your birthdays to include each month!

Send your info to office@stjamespresby.org

MONTHLY MISSION PROJECT monthly opportunities for mission

SJPC Affordable Housing Committee – Thanks again for signing up to work on this committee!

SAVE THE DATES:

September 19, 2023 – Time and Location TBD. We will join the Interfaith Affordable Housing Initiative at a meeting with the staff from the Greensboro Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development to learn what is currently being done to help families with children experiencing homelessness and living in temporary housing.

October 18, 2023 – Time and Location TBD. Greensboro Housing Coalition 2023 Housing Summit. This is another opportunity for us to learn from and meet with housing service providers in Greensboro. Stay tune for more information about this summit.

We are working on scheduling our first meeting (probably via zoom) in September. Be on the lookout for an email.

DISCIPLESHIP Sunday School, Bible Studies & Leadership Trainings

Marie Florance Presbytettes Circle

MFP will meet Sunday, September 24 at 1:00 PM Location TBD. This first meeting will include a brief overview of our new bible study, *Sacred Encounters*. We invite women of St. James who are not members of a Circle to visit our Circle meeting. Please contact the Circle Moderator Ina Siler (551-655-4612) for more information.

Please use the Zoom link below or cut and paste the link in your browser.

https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/83885377253?pwd=RopjVkN1TnVmdGdVeXRrdkVBU3k3UTo9

To join the meeting by telephone, please dial the number below and enter the Meeting ID and Passcode.

1 929 205 6099 US

Meeting ID: 838 8537 7253

Passcode: 451922

The Sara Barber Circle will meet at the church on September 17 at 3:00 pm in classrooms one and two. The introduction and lesson one, entitled Elizabeth's Sacred Encounter from the study guide <u>Sacred Encounters</u>, will be led by the members. Scripture: Luke 1:1-24; 39-45. Visitors are always welcome.

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation

Thank you doesn't seem adequate to express our sincere appreciation to our church family and beyond for your support of our Women's Day activities. We are grateful for all the hard work and sacrifices.

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation Gathering

The September PWC meeting will take place on Sunday, September 10th at 1:00 PM. We will introduce our new bible study *Sacred Encounters* by Olive Mahabir. We welcome all women in the congregation to learn more about this bible study. Look for more information about our hybrid meeting in the weekly eblast. For those of you who will be on Zoom, please see the link below.

https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85203911325?pwd=MHVnboE4UlY4OXFYWUpJNkQoUGl SUTo9

To join the meeting by telephone, please dial the number below and enter the Meeting ID and Passcode.

Meeting ID: 852 0391 1325

Passcode: 451645

DISCIPLESHIP Sunday School, Bible Studies & Leadership Trainings

Salem Presbytery Presbyterian Gathering

The Salem Fall Gathering will be held on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the El Buen Pastor, Presbyterian Church, 4637 Tim Rd. Winston Salem, NC 27106. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Wilma Quinonez Cubero, one of the contributors to the bible study leaders guide. All women of the church are invited to attend this gathering. Registration for the gathering is required and the cost is \$10. Flyers with registration information are in the George Simkins Room. You can also register online at salempresby.org. The church van will be available to take a limited number of women to the gathering. Please contact Co-Moderators, Demetra Barnwell or Regina Artis for more information.

The Older Adult Ministry

Look for updates on schedules and events from The Older Adult Ministry Moderators during the summer months.

~Elders Marie Martin & Pauline McNair, Co-Moderators

For Older Adults who need assistance in the home,

PACE of the Triad is still enrolling new participants. PACE provides medical care and support services to older adults. Services may include, but are not limited to, a health aide for those who qualify, medical transportation, medicines, supplies, therapy, respite, and an optional day program. If you or a loved one can benefit from PACE services, contact PACE at 336-550-4046 for a free assessment or more information. A doctor's referral is not needed. PACE of the Triad is located at 1471 E. Cone Blvd. Greensboro in the Roses Shopping Center. Schedule a tour or free consultation today. Call 336-550-4046 or visit the website www.pacetriad.org/help.

Presbyterian Men

Look for updates on schedules and events from The Presbyterian Men's Leadership Team during the summer months.

~Saint James Presbyterian Men

ADMINISTRATION Church Business & Officer Information

Updated Office Hours

The church office has updated hours! The office will now be open from 10:00am-5:00pm Monday thru Thursday. Please reach out for any questions or concerns. 336-273-6658

Monthly Informer Article Deadline

Please feel free to mail or e-mail: office@stjamespresby.org. Articles can be sent prior to the deadline with the subject: "October Informer." The Final Deadline for articles is Tuesday, September 19, 2023 by 12:00 noon.

Presbyterian Men

Saint James Presbyterian Men Cookout Fundraiser

Saturday September 23, 2023 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Dinners:

Fish Dinner or Fish Sandwich - \$15/\$8 Hot Dogs(2)(1) Dinner with Sides - \$10/\$5

(Includes two sides, pound cake and soft drink or water)
Additional sides available - \$1.00 each
Payment accepted via CashApp(Ssjpcnc), Cash, Check to Saint James (Fish Fry in Memo)

Menu Sides
Baked Beans, Cole Slaw,
Hushpuppies, French Fries,
Onion Rings



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336.273.6658

Update on Printing through the Office

Finally! Implementation of copy codes and limits has been updated. There will be cost for printing in the church office. Every ministry will receive a printing allotment for the year. Prints over the allotted amount will be billed to each ministry. Contact the office with any questions or code requests.

Yearly Allotment per Ministry: Black & White Copies: 300, Color Copies: 175

Printing Charges: Black & White: \$0.01 per letter-sized impression

Color: \$0.08 per letter-sized impression

Tabloid: Each 11x17 impression counts as two letter-size impressions.

Car Wash Gift Cards For Sale!

Does your car need a little TLC? Purchase a \$20.00 Autobell Car Wash Gift Card today! These cards are a great way to invest in Saint James and to keep your ride sparkling in the spring sun. The Autobell Car Wash Gift Card is also an excellent card filler or gift to someone who loves a clean car. Contact the Church Office to purchase your card today!

Contact Information Updating

Have you moved? Changed your phone number? Did you know that you can send update your contact information anytime? Our contact information form is always available online. To fill out the form online, please click: https://forms.gle/bncJhjh5d4gwHafUA
You can also visit our website and click on the link to be taken to the Contact Information Update form. If you would like a physical form, please call the church office and one will be mailed to you. Your information will remain confidential.



ADMINISTRATION Church Business & Officer Information (continued)

Congregational Care Ministry! Congregational Care is an integral part of the ministry of Saint James Presbyterian Church especially during the Pandemic. Due to Elder changes and the desire to continue to care for one another, the Congregational Care Ministry has been updated. Congregational Care functions as a pastoral care arm of ministry. The purpose of the Congregational Care ministry is to care for our congregation by providing presence through prayer, calls and cards during times of medical procedures, health crisis, transitions, and illness. Our Pastor is the primary provider for end-of-life care, bereavement, and funerals. Our Congregational Care team provides presence for ongoing care concerns. The foundation for this ministry is in scripture. Just as Moses was admonished to appoint elders to assist with the care of God's flock (Exodus 18); and just as the early church provided people to care for widows as the apostles gave themselves to prayer and the teaching of the word (Acts 2), our church stands in a biblical tradition to commission people of faith to provide for the care of God's people.

How does Congregational Care Work?

To help ensure that everyone has an Elder, including those on the Forget Me Not List, our congregation is divided into groups based on the first letter of your last name. Each member of the congregation has been assigned a Congregational Care team member as seen below. Some examples of when to contact the church include but is not limited to prayer, notice of a medical procedure or surgery, notice of a current or past hardship. Please call the church office at 336-273-6658 or email office@stjamespresby.org. The office will notify the Pastor and your Congregational Care Provider immediately. If there is an end-of-life situation, the Pastor is the primary provider. All information is private unless permission is given to share with the entire church during prayer and/or through the Forget Me Not list. The Congregational Care Team is eager to serve, so do not hesitate to share your need.

Congregational Care List 2023 (subject to change)

<u>Elders</u>	Members of the Congregation
Tyrone Collins	A, B
Ursula Robinson	C, D, E
Sandra Wallington	F, G, H, I
Karen Watts-Yehudah	J, K, L
Mildred Powell	M, N, O
Paula Latham Washington	P, Q, R
Chuck Wallington	S, T
Ursula Robinson	U, V, W, X, Y, Z

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY MINISTRY



Social Justice Advocacy Ministry September Updates

Next Step Triad Black Faith Leaders & Black Farmers Network Meeting

Over forty-five Triad Black Faith Leaders and Black Farmers gathered with several interested community members at Shiloh Baptist Church on Thursday, August 3, 2023, in the church fellowship hall. This occasion was sponsored by a local coalition including Poplar Grove AME Church, Positive Directions for Youth & Families (Evangel Fellowship Church), Saint James Presbyterian Church (Social Justice Advocacy Ministry), Saint Phillips AMEZ Church, and Shiloh Baptist Church.

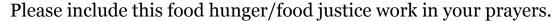
Reverend Steve Allen welcomed everyone with a prayer and purpose followed by the history of the hunger/ food justice work of the Black Faith Leaders coalition in Greensboro shared by Lolita Watkins. Bishop Todd Fulton and Elder Debra Jeter of the Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem & Vicinity summarized their collective food justice work while Reverend Doctor Phanta Lansden shared updates from Bread for the World concerning their efforts in connecting Black Farmers with members of Congress for conversations regarding the renewal of the Farm Bill. Shaunne Thomas from the Guilford County Minority Business Enterprise facilitated a discussion of the organization of this new faith-based network designed to provide fresh vegetables in our community while supporting Black Farmers.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY MINISTRY

Saint James Social Justice Advocacy Ministry members in attendance included Lucia Ward-Alexander, Dr. Vanessa Haygood, Mildred Powell, Sharon Smiley, Reverend Doctor Phanta Lansden and Lolita Watkins.

The call to action items highlighted at the end of the meeting were as follows:

- 1. Signing of Memorandums of Understanding by triad churches and faith organizations in joining the Triad Black Faith Leaders & Black Farmers Network.
- 2. Planning for a faith-based sponsored community farmers market in October.
- 3. Securing funds for holiday distribution of fresh vegetable boxes to 200 food insecure families from Black Farmers in our community.





FAITH POINT FELLOWSHIP Young Adult and College Ministry

Faith Point Fellowship returns on Thursday, September 21st at 7:00 PM on Zoom. We will welcome our new Young Pastor Corie Wilkins. Get to know Pastor Wilkins and learn about his plans for the ministry. College students and young adults 18 - 35 are invited to be part of our dynamic conversations where all topics are on the table! Do you have questions about your faith? Do you wonder how scriptures can be relevant to your everyday life? Do you want to improve your prayer life? Faith Point is a safe, judgment free space for you to get answers to your questions.

Join us on Zoom by clicking the link below.

https://www.paper.com.us/i/889.491499992pwd_dodOWYhl TCtONpNpalM

https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88343149393?pwd=d2dOWXhLTCtQNnNpclMweE9rQ2JoUTo9



Want to stay connected to Faith Point Fellowship?

Text FPF to 55469 to receive words of inspiration and regular updates or visit our website at faithpointfellowship.org. We are also on social media @FaithPointFellowship

FORGET ME NOT LIST - COLLEGE STUDENTS

Emmale Burris Guilford Technical Community College

Terence Burris NC A&T State University

Paul Carlton NC A&T State University

Sydnee Evans NC State University

Marcus Funderburk Forsyth Technical Community College

Micah Funderburk UNC-Pembroke

Kayla Gaskin Emory University

Karlton Gaskin Columbia University

Jalen Graves UNC-Greensboro

April Newkirk Central Piedmont Community College

Messiah Reid UNC Greensboro

Idalia Robinson Guilford Technical Community College

Nodiyah Satterwhite NC A&T State University

Isaiah Siler Guilford Technical Community College

Matthew Watlington NC A&T State University

Shelleik Wilson Winston-Salem State University



Want to stay connected to Faith Point Fellowship?

Text FPF to 55469 to receive words of inspiration and regular updates or visit our website at faithpointfellowship.org. We are also on social media @FaithPointFellowship

FORGET ME NOT LIST Remember to pray for those who cannot attend worship

Margaret Carr Maple Grove Health & Rehab

308 West Meadowview Rd. Rm. 104

Greensboro, NC 27406

Shaquille & Sheryl Davis 3938 Eastland Ave., 27401

Clarence Durham 3313 Janet Ln., 27405

Hyla Cundiff 2214 New Castle Rd. 27406

Emily Goodman (sister of Trustee Fred Peterman) 2605 Corinth Dr., 27406

John Guthrie 4504 Southall Dr., 27406

Lynette Hawkins 17300 Melford Blvd. Apt. 408

Bowie, MD 20715

Brenda Jackson (daughter of Maxine Covington) 1209 Humbaldt Ave. North

Minneapolis, MN 55411

Willie "Peggy" Meachem 1302 Ross Ave. 27406

3834 Riceland Pl. Oscar Reid

Charlotte, NC 28216

Nancy Rives 4813 Weston Pl.

Jamestown, NC 27282

Fannie Scales Guilford House

5918 Netfield Rd.

Greensboro, NC 27455

Amryl Ward 8100 Grahamson Ln.

Charlotte, NC 28269

Erica Ward (niece of Elder Nancy Rives) 81 Dogwood Trail Dr.

Stockbridge, GA 30281

Mrs. Thelma Williams

Frank Wood Moses Cone Health Rehabilitation Center

1121 North Church St. 4 West Rm. 16

Greensboro, NC 27401



FELLOWSHIP Expressions of gratitude, celebrations and church functions!

Thank you...

Thank you Pastor Lansden, St. James Church family and especially Marie Florance Presbyttes for the wonderful 100th year birthday celebration on Sunday, July 16th. I enjoyed the fun, fellowship, program, food and most of all the likeness of my husband (smile). I will cherish being a Queen for the day. Thank you for the many birthday cards, I have close to 100. I want to also thank you for the love and support during my recent illnesses and hospital stays. I appreciate the prayers, cards, calls, visits, meals and every act of kindness you have shown me. You are truly my family and I thank God for you.

~Love, Margaret Carr



OUTREACH MINISTRY We are busy serving the community- Join Us!

Tiny House Community Development, Inc. – Building Tiny Houses with Big Hearts!

Tiny House Community Development's (THCD) mission is to be a coalition of diverse individuals and local organizations who aim to reduce homelessness by engaging in public and private partnerships to create tiny home communities. Working alongside people experiencing homelessness, our goal is to encourage positive community engagement and foster an educational experience in a welcoming environment.

There are plenty opportunities for YOU to get involved!

- Volunteer at a workday; contribute your skilled labor for designing, building, plumbing and electrical work, etc.
- Volunteer with "Breakfast 4 our Friends"; Breakfast is served every Saturday Morning at The HOPE Center located at <u>360 W Gate City Blvd. Greensboro</u>, NC <u>27406</u>; from 8:00am 9:00am
- Donate We appreciate anything you can give, whether it be monetary, your time, or donated building materials. If you'd like to find out more about what we need and to make an online donation visit our website.

https://www.tinyhousesgreensboro.com/get_involved

Donations can be mailed to - THCD, PO Box 20691, Greensboro, NC 27420 Contact Elder Paula Pierce for additional information pfp25@msn.com

OUTREACH MINISTRY We are busy serving the community- Join Us!



<u>Homeless Committee:</u> The Homeless Committee wishes to acknowledge with warm appreciation the congregation for the donation of 51 boxes of Quaker Oats for the Greensboro Urban Ministry.

Stephen Ministry, a Christ-centered ministry that provides care in alleviating pain and stress of life, remains attentive to the needs of others. Our personal contact via the phone allows us to connect. As we venture day by day through this pandemic, we extend the promises of God and the affirmation of His Omni-presence. Our goal is to represent the love, concern and care of Jesus in a confidential way. If we can be of assistance as we journey together, please call a Stephen Leader: Adnee Bradford (336) 202-6989, Yvonne Patterson (336) 375-0122, Cynthia Latham (336) 324-7252

For at home care assistance, please see *The Older Adult Ministry*



STEWARDSHIP Monthly collection and stewardship opportunities.

"Luke 16 records the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Lazarus would sit at this rich man's gate night and day, waiting and begging for a few good scraps from the rich man's table. Every night the rich man would throw the scraps from his plate into the garbage; he saw Lazarus's suffering but his heart was indifferent to the brother's suffering..."

"The rich man is a sign to us; we must be wise stewards of our resources while attending to the needs of the least of our brothers and sisters. The widowed, poor, hungry, and imprisoned are still with us. God does not want us to set those in need adrift on the raging seas of life. Instead he commands us to reach out and give to those in a need a hand up. When we minister to God's children, giving them a way of feeding themselves for life, we are

ministering to the Lord... We need to focus our energies on the development of spiritual and economic programs that will promote an acceptable standard of living..."

"...God's will for us to love all of his children enough to see that they have what they need. This is the "good" that God desires us to do. To know it and not do it is a sin for which God holds us accountable."

*The African-American Devotional Bible, copyright 1997, Zondervan Corp., pg 1394, Bishop William Graves. Verse: James 5:4-5, Passage: James 5:1-6.

The Stewardship Committee thanks you for trusting God and giving generously. We invite you to stay informed and updated on all of the Ministries of STPC.

Have you gotten behind in your personal giving plan and need help catching up? The Stewardship Committee is here to help. Simply call the church office (336) 273-6658 and a member of our team will be in touch with you.

Emergency Relief Fund and Pennies for Hunger (Ongoing) Monthly Missions (ongoing)

If you are giving on line or using Cash App, please indicate the nature of your special giving where it states "add special instructions" or "add a note"

The Stewardship Committee is grateful for your support!

Spread the Word: Emergency Rental Assistance

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, billions of dollars in federal rental assistance is reaching renters behind on housing costs, as well as landlords who have struggled during the pandemic. These programs are run locally, and right now emergency rental assistance is available across the country.

The federal government is continuing an all-out push and issuing a call to action to Members of Congress, state and local officials, companies, advocates, nonprofits, the faith community, and more to conduct an all-out push to make sure tenants and landlords take advantage of federal rental assistance to help cover rent, utilities, and other housing costs and keep people in their homes.

Please spread the word about emergency rental assistance. Help is available for renters who are having trouble paying rent, utilities or other housing costs as well as for landlords who have tenants in this situation. State and local programs are distributing billions of dollars in rental assistance.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) recently developed a new "Rental Assistance Finder" tool for renters and landlords to find information on rental assistance in their area. The tool is now live at: https://www.consumerfinance.gov/renthelp The CFPB's site also includes resources to help renters and landlords understand other resources to help navigate various financial hardships related to the pandemic.

For additional information about the Emergency Rental Assistance program, <u>visit the</u> unified federal housing assistance portal hosted by the CFPB.





Matthew 25 in the PC(USA):

A bold vision and invitation

We are a Matthew 25 church!

Our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31–46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world.

As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus:

- Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed
- Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color
- Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor

To learn more and for ideas on how to get involved and do your vital part as a member of a Matthew 25 church, please visit pcusa.org/matthew25.



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