

## Welcome to all newcomers and visitors!

Please sign our guest book and take a gift bag from the table in the church entrance.  
Join us in the parish hall for fellowship and some light refreshments after the 10:30 service.

### TODAY

**Welcome to our Guest Preacher and Teacher, Julie Simonton!** Today we are joined by Julie Simonton, the Director of Congregational Development and Stewardship for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. Julie will talk about how to identify what God is up to, and how we might hear God through our experiences at St. James'.

**Altar Flowers:** Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Christopher, Lindsay and Diana Ragheb to celebrate Katelyn's seventh birthday on February 14.

### Valentine Plant Sale Today!

Today our parish hall sparkles with a collection of beautiful cyclamen plants—purple, red, white, pink and lavender. Pick some up, \$10 each, after worship services, to give to friends and family.



**FaithTalk: Discernment with Julie Simonton 9:15 a.m.** Join us in the parish hall meeting room. Julie will talk about how to identify what God is doing, and how we might hear God at St. James'. Julie provides hands-on guidance and resources to congregations in all areas of congregational life, and is particularly passionate about how people engage with God to do God's work.

### Sunday School and Childcare

New Year, New Miracles! Children will be learning about Jesus' ministry from moments in the Bible with readings, discussions, and fun activities. Sunday School is 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for children two-and-a-half to sixth grade, in the undercroft. Childcare is offered as well.

### Youth Group Valentine-Making, 6:30 p.m., parish hall

Join us to make cookies and valentines for seniors!

### Sign Up for Lenten Reflections, 2018

We will share our reflections in weekly parish emails during Lent, beginning Thursday, February 15. Please share your experiences of hearing God's voice. **Sign-up using the form in the church entrance**, or online using the link in your News & Notes email and on the church website.



**Prayers at the Side Chapel During Communion:** Bring your concerns and thanksgivings to the side chapel for confidential prayers with a member of our prayer team.

### Thursday Morning Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.

Come together to study lectionary readings each Thursday, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., parish hall meeting room.

### Security Committee Forming

Last Sunday an unfamiliar individual entered our sanctuary. Although he did not threaten anyone, some people became uncomfortable and afraid. As we reflected on this response we realized the need for a safety action plan. A group of vestry members has already met to begin addressing our safety concerns.

The clergy and parish leaders will be available for a short meeting in the parish hall today after the 10:30 a.m. service to answer questions about our plans. A Security Committee is being established, and new members are welcome as we move forward with the help of the police and others in the community.

### COMING EVENTS

**Youth Group Games and Dinner, Sunday, February 18**  
Bring \$3 and a friend for games, dinner and discussion.

**Book Club, Sunday, February 25, 6:45 p.m.**  
We'll discuss *The Remains of the Day*, by Kazuo Ishiguro. All are welcome; join us in the parish hall library.

**Newcomers Welcome Lunch, Sunday, March 4**  
Newcomers, please join us on March 4 at 12:30 in the undercroft (church lower level). Lunch will be served and childcare will be provided. Please RSVP to the office, [office@stjamespotomac.org](mailto:office@stjamespotomac.org) or 301-762-8040.

**Confirmation Classes Begin Sunday, March 11**  
Confirmation will be held on Saturday, May 12 at the National Cathedral. Youth who wish to be confirmed are invited to gather for seven Sundays after the 10:30 service. Pizza will be provided! See Rev. Meredith ([rector@stjamespotomac.org](mailto:rector@stjamespotomac.org)) or James ([james@stjamespotomac.org](mailto:james@stjamespotomac.org)) for more details.

**State of the Parish Meeting, Sunday, March 18, 11:45 a.m.**  
*Christ, Communication, and Coffee – with Rev. Meredith.* Please join us in the parish hall immediately after the 10:30 service to catch up on church celebrations, updates, concerns, and daily church life. This will constitute an official "special" parish meeting as we will present at least one issue (not impacting by-laws) for a parish vote. In addition, the spiritual and financial health of the parish and other topics will be discussed.