

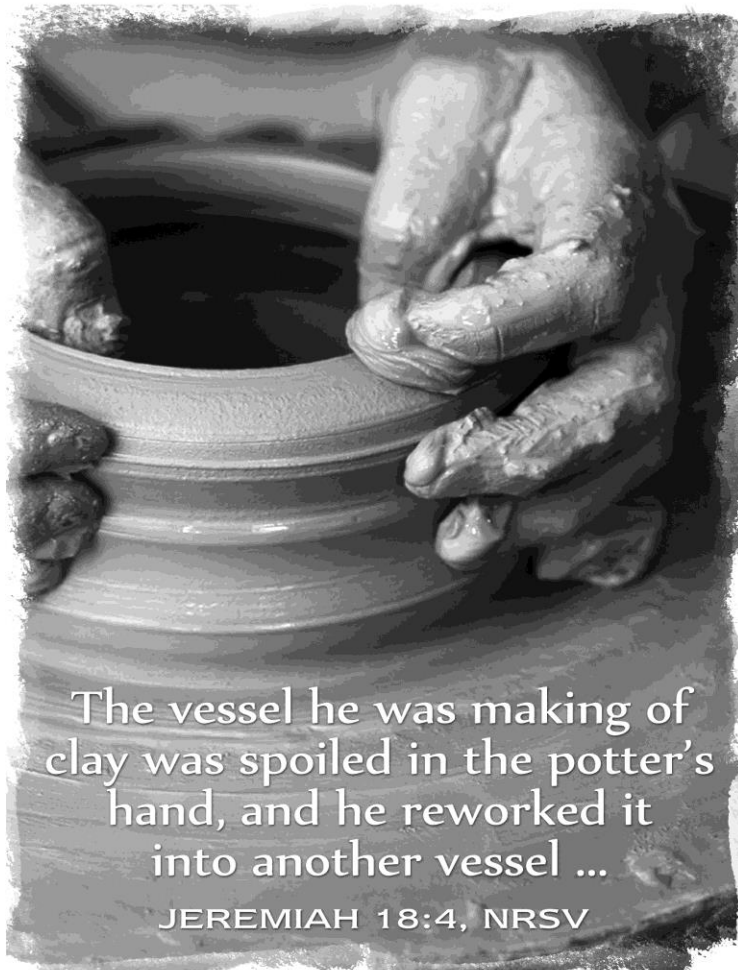


St. James United Methodist Church

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The vessel he was making of
clay was spoiled in the potter's
hand, and he reworked it
into another vessel ...

JEREMIAH 18:4, NRSV

September 4, 2022
11:00 AM Sanctuary Worship

Welcome! On this Labor Day weekend, we pray that all our daily labors may be an extension of this time of worship, done to the glory of God.

Prelude

We invite you to enjoy the prelude as a time of quiet reflection, and to individually prepare your hearts for the worship of God.

Call to Worship

Leader: We come with praise for the wonderful works of God.

People: Even before we speak, God knows us completely.

Leader: The Holy One knows us and sustains us, even in our moments of confusion and doubt.

People: Who can count the thoughts of God? They are more than all the sands of the desert.

Leader: Like clay in the hand of the potter, we are shaped into vessels of divine will.

All: We come with praise for the wonderful works of God.

Hymn – *As a Fire Is Meant for Burning*

TFWS 2237

Doxology

UMH 95

Sharing Peace

Prayer Time and Lord's Prayer

(To share your joys and concerns, please email them to prayerrequests@stjamesraleigh.org, where they will then be shared with our Prayer Chain.)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem – *When I'm Afflicted, Poor and Low*

When I'm afflicted, poor and low, and light and peace depart,
my God beholds my heavy woe, and bears me on his heart.
I waited patient for the Lord; He bowed to hear my cry;
He saw me resting on His Word, and brought salvation nigh.
He raised me from a horrid pit, where mourning long I lay,
and from my bonds released my feet, from bonds of miry clay.

Firm on a rock He made me stand, and taught my cheerful tongue
to praise the wonders of His hand, in a new and thankful song.
How many are thy thoughts of love! Thy mercies, Lord, how great!
We have not words nor hours enough their numbers to repeat.
When I'm afflicted, poor and low, and light and peace depart,
my God beholds my heavy woe, and bears me on his heart.

William Bradley Roberts. © 2010 St. James Music Press. CCLI # 1374588

Scripture Lesson – Jeremiah 18: 1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Message – The Hands of the Potter

Hymn – *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

UMH 382

Blessing & Sending Out

Out to Serve in the World

The rose on the altar today is in celebration of the birth of Kinsley Hutter Sheen, born August 29 to parents Erin & Kevin Sheen. Grandparents are Wynne & Rick Sheen; great-grandparents are Joe & Judy Rhodes, who are thrilled to add a 5th great-granddaughter to their family!

What to know this week ...

This week's calendar:

Mon, 9/5	Office Closed for Labor Day
Tues, 9/6	Library Committee, 9AM in the Library Staff Meeting, 10AM GS Troop 4491, 6:30PM in Montague Hall
Wed, 9/7	Choir rehearsal, 6PM in Sanctuary
Thurs, 9/8	Beginning Uke (grades 2-6), 5:45PM in Music Room Beginning Uke (grade 7-adult), 6:15PM in Music Room Common Thread Band rehearsal, 7PM in Carson Hall
Sat, 9/10	Produce Packing, 9AM in Carson Hall

Children's Discipleship is back in session after the summer break! All children PreK-5th grade are invited to join us in Room 11 for Bible stories, crafts, and learning more about Jesus each Sunday following the Common Thread service, around 10:15. If you are interested in volunteering with our children's ministries, please contact Heather Johnson (heather@exit9b.com) for more information!

It's almost time! The annual St. James BBQ is coming up on Friday, September 23, 11am-7pm! Start telling your friends, neighbors and co-workers now! We are repeating last year's successful drive-thru only pickup. Plates will be \$10 and include BBQ pork, boiled potatoes, slaw, hush puppies and brownie, or pick up pre-packaged quart bags of BBQ for \$12 per bag. Sharon Johnson is taking pre-orders at wjohnson99@mindspring.com. Volunteers are also needed to make our biggest fundraiser go smoothly! You may donate \$25 towards a pork shoulder (make checks to St. James UMC with "pork shoulder" on the memo line), or sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/2022-BBQ-Volunteers> to help set up, serve, distribute, clean up, or provide brownies for the BBQ.

Volunteer Opportunity: St. James Board of Trustees needs your help with one of its most important jobs: to ensure that the St. James facility is secure at the end of each day. This requires a daily building check by a church member. This security task includes checking that all exterior doors are locked and latched and that there are no systems malfunctions, such as plumbing leaks, inside the building. It takes approximately 30 minutes, and the Trustees provide a checklist and in-person training, if requested. A monthly sign-up is e-mailed from the Trustee Chair prior to the beginning of each month, and participants are encouraged to volunteer for as many days as their schedules permit. The Trustees appreciate any time you can give, even if it's only one day each month! Please contact Trustee Chair Linda Davenport (ldavenport5@nc.rr.com or 919-349-5813) to ask questions and/or join the team.

A note from the Social Committee: Due to the number of recent gatherings and meals and in an effort to not exhaust the volunteers and calendar in the coming weeks, the Social Committee will **not** hold the Church Picnic/Rivalry Tailgate this year. Let's focus our time and energy on Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 23. We hope to see the parking lot filled with creativity! A sign-up will be sent out as we approach the date.