

# the Pulse

May 2017

## THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



### People of the Resurrection

Easter greetings! What a joy it is to send out this first note to the congregation of Saint James as I begin my first days here as your new pastor. It is a joy to begin this season of resurrection with you. We are entering Spring and...may I say...we are most certainly ready for it! It has been a long, cold winter here in the great city of Bellingham and I know many of us long for warmer days, strolls along the Boulevard Park trail, walks through our South Hill neighborhood, and up through WWU's campus to see the trees blooming. Spring is a glorious time of year.

We enter Spring with the anticipation that life will finally break through the cold, wet ground once more. In the season of Easter, we remember how the church responded to Jesus' death and resurrection by learning how to live together in community, continuing on the practices and rhythms of the life Jesus had taught them, living in response to the resurrection.

As a church, we enter this season together with great hope for what God has in store for us as we practice resurrection. Saint James Presbyterian Church has a legacy of vibrant ministry in the city of Bellingham. In this next chapter, we seek God's vision for how Saint James will continue on in this vibrant legacy, embracing what it means to practice resurrection as we pursue God's mission for our neighborhood and the people we are called to love.

I think about the trees and flowers in my backyard at home. By no help of my own (my gardening skills are quite poor), these plants have endured the long winter, the harsh rains, and occasional deep freeze, and their

seeds are now beginning to open up into newly blooming life. I am astonished at this marvel of God's creation because it reminds me of the seeds planted in each of us. It makes me wonder at what ways God will call us to bloom from the seeds that have been planted in us, long waiting for the sun's warmth and an opportunity to bloom into the fullness of our being.

We must never forget that resurrection is not simply the marker of new life, but that resurrection is about fulfillment. We mark Jesus' resurrection because it is a fulfillment of his life of ministry and the promises of God's prophets through generations before him. Resurrection is a new beginning, certainly, but it takes into account the full life and history that comes before it. Without this, the resurrection has little power — life to death, death to life. Just like the seeds that wait dormant in the ground, so resurrection in our own lives is marked by how God fulfills the promises and gifts that each of us carry within us. God has much in store for us all!

To fully inhabit the season of Easter means to seek out God's resurrection in our own lives and in the life of our gathered communities. Here at Saint James Presbyterian, we will pursue this resurrection life by how we strengthen the bonds of our community life together — we recognize that we belong to one another and in this new chapter of our life, we will renew our covenants of friendship and commitment to one another. We will continue to welcome the stranger as though they were Jesus himself — in this way, we practice resurrection by embracing all people with dignity and the hope that God is at work in restoring and resurrecting all lives.

Finally, it is my prayer that as a church, in this season of Easter and resurrection, we will discover that is an opportunity for us to come awake in the love of Christ anew. This is a season for us to open our eyes all the more to God's goodness around us and seek out ways to live in response to this goodness through how we love our neighbors, our enemies, and those who we share our life with each day.

Grace and peace, brothers and sisters, in the resurrected Christ,

Pastor Seth



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**Welcome to our new pastor!**  
**The Rev. Seth J. Thomas**  
**email: [pastor@saintjamespres.org](mailto:pastor@saintjamespres.org)**  
**phone: 360-733-1325**

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**A Word of Thanks**

I want to express my deep appreciation for the sendoff St. James gave me. Thank you for the wonderful farewell reception, for the gifts presented by the session, as well as those I received from individuals, and for the many cards and notes of appreciation. Thanks also to the choir for the special benediction they prepared and sang on the day of the reception in my honor.

I have enjoyed my time at St. James and I value the relationships I've had there. While I will no longer be with you, I will be thinking of you, and praying for you, as you embark on the next leg of your journey with your new pastor.

May you experience God's richest blessings,  
Pastor Janet

**Interfaith Coalition thanks St. James Presbyterian Church**

Interfaith Coalition thanks St. James Presbyterian Church for your generosity to our 2017 Hope Auction. In addition to what those of you in attendance contributed through ticket or auction item purchase, your faithful response through your many congregation gifts including: gift certificates, garden baskets, benches, and tables. You raised over \$800 and helped us reach a record total auction amount of over \$193,000! Know that every day families and individuals in Whatcom County are lifted up and experience hope because of you. Thank you!

**Spring Dinners for 8!**

Sign up for **Spring Dinners for 8!** Congregational Life encourages you to participate in this opportunity to get to know others in our congregation around the dinner table. Groups of about eight will be formed to gather for a potluck dinner. Hosts are always needed! If you are able to host (in your own home, at church or in a different location) please indicate so on the sign-up sheet. Transportation can always be arranged so there is no reason not to participate! The sign-up sheet is in the Horizon Room.

**Presbyterian Women**

The St. James Women's Association will meet Tuesday, May 23 for its monthly bible study and salad potluck luncheon. Bible study convenes at 10:30 a.m. and is followed at noon by a potluck salad luncheon. This week we focus on lessons eight and nine of our *Who Is Jesus?* study guide. The lessons examine Jesus "According to Abrahamic Faiths" and "According to Contemporary Cultural Interpretations". Key scriptures: Galatians 4:23-29 and Matthew 15:21-28. All women are welcome, and may attend either the bible study or the luncheon, or both. Speaker(s) to be announced.

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**ST. JAMES CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

**May 7:**

Glad and Generous Hearts. Focus scripture is Acts 2:42-47. When adults practice hospitality with children, it allows them to feel like they belong, are cared for and are nurtured by God.

**May 14:**

Stand Firm. Focus scripture is Acts 7:55-60. Children hear the story of Stephen and learn that he served God by serving others. The focus is on Stephen's ministry of caring.

**May 21:**

Called Alongside. Focus scripture: John 14:15-21. Children learn about the comforting presence of God. Adults can talk about actions that cause stress, such as bullying, pushing, or grabbing toys, while creating a safe environment for children.

**May 28:**

All My Relations. Focus scripture is John 17:1-11. Children explore praying for others, such as family members and pets. They experience the comfort of others' prayers for them.

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**May Birthdays**

- 2 Jenny Sue LeSchander
- 3 Elizabeth Crandall
- 4 Aaron Caruso
- 6 Jim Hardin
- 14 Peter van der Veen
- 18 Bob Pace

**May Anniversaries**

- 13 Bruce and Marsha Lockhart

**“Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;  
his going out is sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us as the showers,  
as the spring rains that water the earth.”  
Hosea 6:3 ESV**



Skagit Valley Tulip Festival

**Highlights from the April 9, 2017 Session Meeting**

This is provided as a reminder for who is serving on Session and the committees:

- Laurie Anderson (Membership)
- Dick Carr (Finance)
- Tim Crandall (Nominating and Personnel)
- Pending (Worship)
- Gretchen Pfueller (Mission Social Action)
- Merry Thomas (Christian Faith Formation)
- Jeanne Uhles (Building and Grounds)
- Mark Beaty (Nominating)

Motions passed since the March 12, 2017 Session Meeting:

Call for a Special Meeting of the Presbytery, April 27, 2017;

Tim Crandall and Dick Carr were elected to serve as Commissioners for the Special Meeting of the Presbytery, April 27, 2017;

The next Session meeting be held on May 7, 2017 to deconflict with Mother’s Day.

Mark Beaty  
Clerk of Session

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Special Music

Music Director Carolyn is seeking musicians to provide special music for our summer worship services. Please contact her at 360-595-0934 if you are willing and available. Thanks!

Save the Date for our Annual Salmon Barbecue

Friday, June 23, 5:30 p.m. on the lawn in front of the Fellowship Hall. Watch for more info in your Sunday bulletin.

Cross-fit

The Cross-fit prescription is performing “functional movements that are constantly varied.” Cross-fit is a core strength and conditioning program. **Cross-fit now meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm-5pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us! All fitness levels are welcome.**

WANTED: HEALTH COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

No meetings required. Someone who is concerned about the bodies, minds, and spirits of our St. James family, who will oversee the fitness classes and other health related issues. This person will serve under the Mission and Social Action Committee. Please contact Gretchen Pfueller (360-734-3953) for more information.

Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East  
**May 18, 2017, 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**Hosted by: First Congregational Church**  
2401 Cornwall Ave, Bellingham, WA 98225, (360) 734-3720

Bellingham faith communities continue the monthly prayer vigils for peace in the Middle East, which were started in December 2000 at the initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and organized Nationally by Churches for Middle East Peace. The prayer vigils are held on the 18th of each month from 5:30pm-6:00pm at various faith communities. We are grateful for all the faith communities who have hosted the prayer vigils in Bellingham and Whatcom County.

Join our ecumenical prayer vigil for the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities in Jerusalem, for all those, Israelis and Palestinians, who are suffering in the Holy Land, and for peace in the Middle East and the world.

Regarding the Pulse

Pulse articles are still due on the 16th of every month. All items are appreciated. Those items submitted after the 16th may appear in the next month’s issue.

Natasha Orme, Administrative Secretary  
Office email: office@saintjamespres.org  
Office phone: 360-733-1325

**MAY CALENDAR**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10am Grief Support Group 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts	2 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	3 11:15am Tai Chi 12:15am Chair Tai Chi 4pm Mission & Social Action 5:30pm Finance 6pm SOS Men's AA	4 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congregational Life 7:15pm AA	5	6 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
7 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/ Communion 3pm Community Chorus 7:15pm AA	8 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	9 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	10 11:15am Tai Chi 12:15am Chair Tai Chi 4:30pm Weavers Guild 6pm SOS Men's AA	11 10:15am Yoga 3pm Christian Faith Formation 4pm Cross-fit 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA	12 12pm Prime Timers 6:30pm Church Work Party	13 10am OA 10am Preschool Open House
14 Mother's Day 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Session BYOL 7:15pm AA	15 10am Grief Support Group 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	16 PULSE ITEMS DUE 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	17 11:15am Tai Chi 12:15am Chair Tai Chi 6pm SOS Men's AA	18 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at First Congregational Church 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA	19	20 10am OA 6pm Music Teachers Assoc.
21 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons 7:15pm AA	22 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	23 10am Yoga 10:30am Women's Bible Study 12pm Women's Potluck Luncheon 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	24 11:15am Tai Chi 12:15am Chair Tai Chi 6pm SOS Men's AA	25 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Worship Committee 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA	26 3pm Membership	27 9am Pet Partners 10am OA
28 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA	29 Memorial Day 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	30 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	31 11:15am Tai Chi 12:15am Chair Tai Chi 6pm SOS Men's AA	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>Bayside Co-op Preschool Schedule: 360-360-733-3972</p> <p>Hawthorne Learning Solutions Schedule: contact <a href="mailto:hlearningsolutions@gmail.com">hlearningsolutions@gmail.com</a></p> </div>		