

the Pulse

February 2018

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Greetings friends,

Here we are in the dreary, damp, cold, and beautiful month of February. We anticipate the coming of the Lenten season and long for days of more sunlight and the promise of Spring. Winter draws us inward, calling us to come and sit by the fire and stay warm in hopes that the chill will soon break. I hope that you have gathered closer with the ones you love in this season, closer to God's presence in your own self and in the life of the community of St. James.

While the days are short and the winds are cold, this season in our church is anything but quiet. We have bustled through the month of January, calling new officers into service, setting plans for how we will steward God's resources for the year ahead, and diving fully into construction and the practice of "remaking" as we demolish and rebuild our upstairs bathrooms. Do we engage in all of this so that we can manage the dreary winter rain? Do we gather more frequently and with greater intention in this season in some hopes that it will ward off the heaviness of the season, hoping to see Christ in each other and be encouraged? I hope so.

The season of Lent is upon us. February 14 we mark the beginning of this season through the practice of Ash Wednesday. We remember that while the world spins on busily around us it is all fleeting, we are all impermanent. We come from dust and to dust we shall return. This year, I hear this invitation to remem-

ber our dusty nature with hope — God created humankind out of the dust of the earth, the good, rich soil of the garden, nurtured by the pounding rain, enriched by the decay of winter. We come from dust — good, earthy, life-sustaining dust. In this season of Lent, we turn our focus to Christ's journey toward the cross, the place where we are astonished to discover that while the body is from dust, death no longer has the final word. For Christ, and for all devoted and belonging to Christ, dust is transformed into a spring of living water. From dust, we are remade, from impermanent to eternal.

Finally, while we engage in all the devotional practices that bring us individually into focus around the journey to the cross, so we will also journey as a community into deeper connection and belonging. This February and March, I will be hosting a couple of gatherings after church called *Communitas Presbyteros*, times to gather and learn about what it means to belong and participate in life here at St. James. *Communitas* is a Latin word for "belonging" or "community". *Presbyteros* is the word we draw our denominational name from, signifying a community led by elders and structured in such a way to discern God's will as a people. If you've ever thought of joining St. James, becoming a member, or deepening your sense of connection and commitment, I invite you to join us.

In all things, may you be encouraged and strengthened in the grace and mercy of God in this season. You are beloved, welcomed, and called to be disciples of the Christ in this city, in your neighborhood, in this church.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Seth

A journey into Lent

LENTEN VESPERS SERVICES AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, February 25 @ 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 25 @ 7:00 pm

Good Friday, March 30 @ 7:00 pm



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February Birthdays

2	Louise Hardin
4	Allison Crandall
4	Laura Crandall
5	Janet Oakley
7	Glen Titus
7	David Armstrong
12	Tim Crandall
12	Colleen Reimers
14	Katie Jackson
18	John Dobbie
19	Vie Renard
20	Randy Bowers
22	Gail Haines
23	Jim Gresham
26	Ralph Rinne
27	Kay Carr
28	Nancy Peck



Ladies Night Out!

Friday, February 2 at 6:00 pm
in the Horizon Room

Craft Night

Make Valentines for your
Valentines. Please bring your
favorite pizza and ideas for future
activities.

From the St. James Women's Association

Tuesday, February 27, all women are welcome to attend the bible study at 10:30 am, followed by a luncheon at noon. This month's bible study is Lesson Six, "In Community with the Reality of the Present". Focus scripture is Hebrews 2:10-18 and 10:32-36; and Mark 8: 31-38.

The group will offer a soup and bread luncheon this month instead of the usual potluck salad luncheon. The program will be announced soon.

ANGEL TREE

Every wish was granted, and the monetary gifts became gift certificates to be given by InterFaith Council (\$550 worth!) at their discretion. Those of us who wrapped had fun while doing so, and certainly felt part of the giving as well. Thank you to all of those who donated, and those who helped with the wrapping! St. James received 2 thank yous, one from each family. I will post them on the bulletin board. Happy New Year! Kay Carr, Chair

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 4

February 4 is Souper Bowl Sunday at St. James. No, we won't be watching the game, but we will be collecting donations in honor of the Seahawks for Family Promise. Family Promise serves hearty, healthy meals to the hungry in local churches. These meals are served by people like us, who have committed to supporting homeless families in transition. Since you may not be celebrating as planned, you might consider sharing the money you would have spent on party food and drinks, to provide meals or those less fortunate in our community. Family Promise will begin hosting families on April 2. We are looking forward to being involved in this exciting program.



Friday, February 23
6pm in Fellowship Hall
Baked Potato and Salad Bar Dinner
Suggested Donation \$5/person, \$15/family, 50c/card
Bring your friends and family for a night of food, fun, and prizes

JAN-DEC 2017 FINANCIAL STATUS

	DECEMBER	CURRENT BUDGET	JAN-DEC.	ANNUAL BUDGET
INCOME	\$23,924	\$15,908	\$226,981	\$203,446
EXPENSES	\$15,906	\$17,009	\$190,716	\$208,680

Excess for 2017 \$36,264

Overall, St.James had a very good year financially. Our total in pledges was just \$35 less than our budget. The high income for December is due to some members paying pledge amounts in advance for 2018. Key factors that resulted in the high excess funds for 2017 are generous general offering giving, building usage income and several budget items being under budget. This is great news for St. James as there were some new costs that were not in the budget that were paid and yet we have that nice excess. The excess funds have been included in our 2018 Budget which makes it a balance budget.

Finance Committee
 Dick Carr, Chair



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Interfaith Hope Auction

Hope is on the Way! Please join us for the **Interfaith Coalition's Hope Auction on March 24** as we continue in our work of ensuring that all children have a safe, warm place to call home. With you as a partner, we can transform the lives of our neighbors in need of a fresh start.

Please consider donating an auction item such as a service you offer, artwork, gift certificate, tickets to popular sporting events or vacation home getaway.

For tickets to the event or to make a donation, please check out our website: www.interfaith-coalition.org or call us at 360-734-3983. Together, we can offer emergency and transitional housing, meals, warm clothing and hope for a brighter day.

Thank You for Providing Christmas Gifts through Interfaith Coalition

Thank you so much for brightening the season this Christmas for local homeless families!

"Thank you for giving my children Christmas. It has been a struggle this year and you are giving us hope that things will get better. We are so grateful for your generosity."

"Thank you so much for blessing myself and 4 sons. It was an unexpected blessing as most are. There will be lots of smiles Christmas morning thanks to your generous spirit. God bless you and yours this Christmas."

There were lots of hugs, smiles, and tears of happiness at the Interfaith Coalition Holiday Joy Drive. Your carefully selected gifts are so appreciated. Eighty-six families, a total of 263 individuals, in our housing program and the Opportunity Council were provided gifts. With the struggles of homelessness and other difficulties, the joy of the holiday season provides families a wonderful reprieve and a reminder of the love that exists in our community.

Wishing you peace and joy this coming year,

Laura Harker, Executive Director



FEBRUARY 2018



INTERFAITH COALITION

Partners in faith. Changing lives.

Choir Festival

Join us for a joyful concert of spiritual music from diverse congregations throughout Whatcom County, as well as a combined choir of all singers!

Sunday, February 25, 3:30 p.m.
First Congregational Church
2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham

A good-will offering will be taken for Interfaith Coalition.

Working together to eliminate family homelessness and poverty in our community.

910 14TH STREET, BELLINGHAM | 360-754-5985 | OFFICE@INTERFAITH-COALITION.ORG
WWW.INTERFAITH-COALITION.ORG

NEW MEMBERS

Baptism

New Members Classes and Baptisms

St James Presbyterian Church is featuring remodeling over the next couple of months. As we venture forth with our upstairs bathroom remodel project, Pastor Seth thought it timely to restructure our New Members Classes starting with a name change to *Communitas Presbyteros*.

Communitas “reflects the spirit of belonging” or a sense of being equals bound together in a common purpose. The Greek word *Presbyteros* is where we draw the name *Presbyterian*, representing our church, uniquely a *Presbyterian* community.

The new *Communitas Presbyteros* Classes for interested individuals will be offered over 3 Sundays during Lent.

They will include a lunch following Sunday services:

Membership Course 1 (*Communitas* focused): February 25

Membership Course 2 (*Presbyteros* focused): March 4

Membership Course 3 (make up): March 11 (before service)

New Membership go before Session: March 11

New Member Sunday: March 25 (Palm Sunday)

The change in the format of the *Communitas Presbyteros* classes will make *Baptisms* part of the course, highlighting them more as a part of the whole ritual of joining the church.

Come join us!

Please contact Pastor Seth for more information

Children's Ministries

Godly Play presents the following stories:

Feb. 4: Children experience the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-35).

Feb. 11: This Godly Play lesson focuses on the Parable of the Great Pearl (Matthew 13-45).

Feb.18: The Mystery of Easter (1st Sunday of Lent). Children begin to understand the solemn season of Lent and its connection to Easter. They also learn that Easter is not just one day, but a season.

Feb. 25: The Faces of Easter II: Christ is the one who was lost and then found.



FEBRUARY CALENDAR 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px;"> Bayside Co-op Preschool Schedule: 360-360-733-3972 Hawthorne Learning Solutions Schedule: contact hlearningsolutions@gmail.com </div>				1 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	2 Groundhog Day 4pm Cross-fit 6pm Ladies Night Out	3 10am OA 10am Preschool Open House 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
4 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/Communion 7:15pm AA	5 10am Grief Support Group 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	6 10am Worship Committee 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	7 6pm SOS Men's AA	8 10:15am Yoga 3pm Christian Faith Formation 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	9 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit 6pm Ladies Night Out	10 9am Church Work Party 10am OA
11 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Session BYOL 7:15pm AA	12 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	13 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 6pm Finance 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	14 Ash Wed Valentine's Day 4pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	15 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	16 PULSE DUE 4pm Cross-fit	17 9:30am Weavers Guild 10am OA
18 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons 7:15pm AA	19 Presidents Day 10am Grief Support Group 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	20 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	21 6pm SOS Men's AA	22 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	23 3pm Membership 4pm Cross-fit 6pm Bingo Night	24 10am OA
25 9am Membership 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7pm Lenten Vespers Service 7:15pm AA	26 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6pm Boy Scouts Planning Mtg 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	27 10am Women's Bible Study 10:15am Yoga 12pm Women's Potluck 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	28 6pm SOS Men's AA			



910 - 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
www.saintjamespres.org
office@saintjamespres.org
360-733-1325

Office Hours: Tue-Fri, 9am-2pm

St. James Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas
Children's Ministry: Tracy Caruso, Coordinator
Teachers: Erika Singh-Cundy, Sophie Rose Kendrick,
Lucy Sieczka
Administrative Secretary: Natasha Orme
Treasurer: Marina McLeod
Music Director: Carolyn Mullen
Pianist/Accompanist: Julian Fajardo

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Children's Time

