

Vital Congregations: Vital Congregations: Intentional Authentic Evangelism

St. James is participating in the PC(USA)'s Vital Congregations Initiative in 2020-21. In his Pulse articles, Pastor Seth will be sharing a little about each of the 7 Marks of Vitality from the initiative in hopes of unpacking and exploring the concepts for our congregation. This month, we examine Intentional Authentic Evangelism



My undergraduate experience at Western Washington University was certainly one of the most formative times in my life. The first time living away from home, meeting new people from all over the country, studying a variety of subjects in greater depth, discovering what it meant to be independent and finding my own perspectives. For so many students, college is a time of emergence, a time of blossoming and finding out what they believe, where they are called to serve and grow. It is a rich time.

College or the first years out of the house can also be a time of great spiritual upheaval and growth. For the first time, we have the opportunity to question what we believe and find our own spiritual home. With the exposure to new ideas and fresh perspectives, our eyes are opened. It can be an impressionable time, dangerous in some ways and crackling with the possibility in so many more. After graduating, I loved working with college students in this transition as I served as a campus minister for 7 years at a place called The INN. I was gifted with the opportunity to walk alongside students wrestling with their faith, asking questions, exploring meaning, and seeking that sense of purpose that we all long

to discover. Some of the most rewarding times were witnessing those “aha moments” in students’ lives: finding the right career to pursue, meeting their partner, and encountering the person of Jesus, perhaps again or perhaps for the first time.

Intentional Authentic Evangelism is not about a 4-step program that leads a person to say a prayer and joining the church. “Evangelism” itself has become a dirty word — often tinged with guilt-tripped proselytizing or heavy-handed rules that must rigidly confess a particular way of following God. Rather, what I think we’re talking about here is much more life-giving, much more about that work of discovery and attention to how God is moving, transforming our lives, in the “aha moments” and through the whole journey of life.

Working with college students was most certainly “evangelism.” It was my job to care for students and help them know the love of Christ through how I lived my life alongside them. It was not about making them into replicates of me, but rather about finding a way to encounter God’s love in the mundane and profound moments of life and then...as all good evangelists do...simply point to it, bear witness to it, name the goodness of God for what it is. This is intentional: it does not hide the profound hope we know in Christ but wears it humbly. It is authentic: it tells the story of God who encounters us in the real parts of our lives, the real pain and real joy we actually experience day-to-day. And it is evangelism: that is, it takes to the heart what the word εὐαγγέλιον (the Greek word evangelism roots in) means and celebrates it: good news, gospel news! It is actually something authentically good for our lives when we encounter God’s love in the day-to-day.

So, where do you have the opportunity to share this good news of God in authentic, intentional ways? Who are the people you are walking alongside each day that you share the light of Christ with, in love, in friendship, in hospitality, and care? Not because you hope to flip their perspectives, but because it truly is good news that makes you live a certain way.

Evangelism like this is vibrant, awake, alive, and vital.

Grace and Peace,



Rev. Seth Thomas

FINANCE UPDATE: A LENS OF GRATITUDE

By Lindsay Anderson, Finance Committee

Hello! I am happy to introduce myself as the new Finance Elder here at St. James, taking over from Dick Carr after his six years of dedicated service. My name is Lindsay Anderson and I consider it a privilege to help shepherd the stewardship of our congregation's resources. I do so alongside our Finance Committee and the Board of Elders. I am looking forward to bringing both my experience planning Missions and Programming budgets for the INN University Ministries and my background in counseling and adult leadership to this role.

Thank you to all our past and current elders, our trustees, our church staff, and you – our congregation – for the ways you support the work God is doing here! It is not uncommon to start the year 'ahead' as some do give their total yearly pledge in January. You may give as you are able. If you prefer online (one-time or monthly) giving, please visit www.saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving.



	January 2020	CURRENT BUDGET	YR TO DATE	YR TO DATE BUDGET
Income	\$35,165	\$29,957	\$35,165	\$28,284
Expenses	\$20,591	\$21,871	\$20,591	\$21,871

CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

By Tracy Caruso, Children & Family Ministry Director

What a busy month finishing out winter and getting ready to welcome spring!

In Godly Play, we wrapped up our parable series with a new parable about what a parable is. For March we are moving on to our Faces of Easter series that will take us through Lent.

We held a fun Ukulele concert and dinner to raise money for the All Church Retreat in August. A fun time was had by all! A huge Thank You to Linda Henderson and the Community Ukulele Players of Bellingham for such an awesome concert!



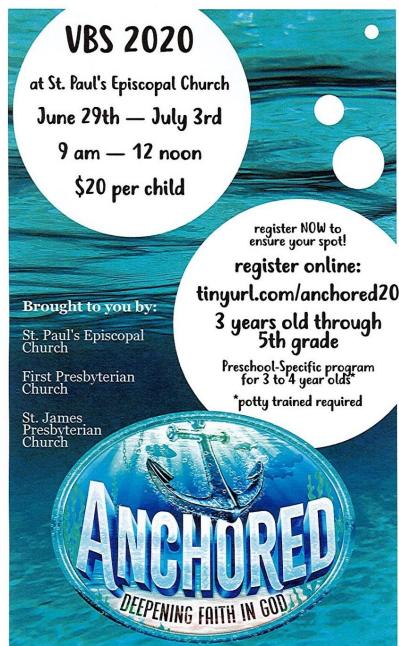
St. James is participating with First Presbyterian Church and Cordata Presbyterian Church for a **Lenten Pilgrimage** with each church hosting a different service during Lent. We held the first service on Ash Wednesday and will join at Cordata Presbyterian for Maundy Thursday Service and First Presbyterian for Good Friday Service.

We hope everyone will join us on Wednesdays from 5:30-7 beginning March 4th and continuing each Wednesday during Lent for a **Soup and Study**. We will enjoy a meal at 5:30 and follow with a Bible study of the *7 Marks of Vital Congregations*. Childcare is provided.

BINGO Night is back! Mark your calendars for Friday evening March 27th for our annual taco dinner and BINGO night. We will have a taco dinner ready at 6 followed by an evening of BINGO with fun, food, popcorn, and prizes! Suggested donation of \$5/person, \$15/family.

(Children & Family continues)

Easter is coming! We will be hosting an Easter Egg hunt after church on Easter Sunday the 12th. Depending on the weather the Hunt will be held either outside on the front lawn or downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. We are looking for donations of NUT FREE, wrapped candies to fill the eggs with.



Contact: lindsay@stpaulsbellingham.org, kerrie@fpcbellingham.org, tracy@saintjamespres.org

Summer is just around the corner, which means it is time to register for **VBS**. St. James is partnering again with First Presbyterian and St. Paul's Episcopal to hold *Anchored: Deepening Faith in God Vacation Bible School* June 28th through July 3rd, 9-Noon. Registration is open for just the partnering churches until April 15th then it will be open to the public, last year we filled up before the end of April so get your registration in fast! You can register at tinyurl.com/anchored20. We are also in need of volunteers for that week! Please let Tracy know if you are able to help that week.

Our Sunday morning adult education class will continue to study the lectionary texts each week, along with our Lenten series of the **7 Marks of Vital Congregations**. The lectionary texts are posted each week in the weekly email of announcements, if you don't currently receive that and would like to, please contact the office with your email. The class starts at 9:30 in the lounge, childcare is available in the nursery. All are welcome!

Godly Play for March

March 1st: The Parable of the Deep Well

Often children will ask what parables really are. The Parable of the deep well is designed to help children find their own interpretation of what a parable is.

March 8th: Faces of Easter I

Lent is the season we prepare for Easter. This lesson helps children prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the Lent is the season we prepare for Easter. This lesson focuses on the face of Christ as a newborn child.

March 15th: Faces of Easter II & III

Lent is the season we prepare for Easter. These lessons help children continue to prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week's lesson focuses on the face of Christ as the One who was lost and found and the face of Christ as the One who was baptized and blessed.

March 22nd: Faces of Easter IV & V

Lent is the season we prepare for Easter. These lessons help children continue to prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week's lesson focuses on Christ's temptation in the desert and on the face of Christ as healer and parable-maker.

March 29th: Work Day



Meet Our New Nursery Workers!



Frankie Morrissey. (L) Frankie comes from California and will be attending Western Washington University after she establishes residency in Bellingham. She is currently working for the YMCA as an after school care site leader. We are thrilled to have her on board!

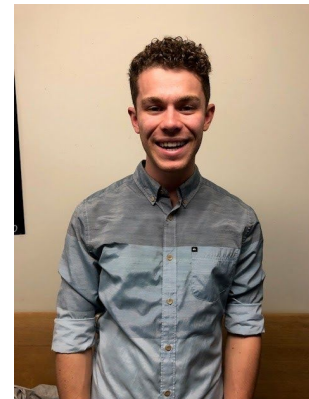
Tova Breen. (R) Tova comes from Minnesota, she is a Junior at Western studying Education and Psychology. She has many years of childcare experience and is fluent in Spanish. Welcome to Tova!



SHOUT OUTS!

The Pulse segment celebrates events, accomplishments, triumphs of our congregation. Contact the office to share a "Shout Out" for next month.

SHOUT OUT & Congratulations to Luke Arnold for receiving the Western Washington University Ford Hill Piano Scholarship for the second year! Luke, we are delighted to have you as our church accompanist and very proud of your achievements at Western Washington University.



SHOUT OUT to our Music Director Dylan Cisneros! Dylan has been putting in much time and effort as the Musical Director for a community theatre performance of **Fame!** A group from St. James went down to Mt. Vernon to show our support and had an amazing time! Great job Dylan!

(Shout Outs! Continue)

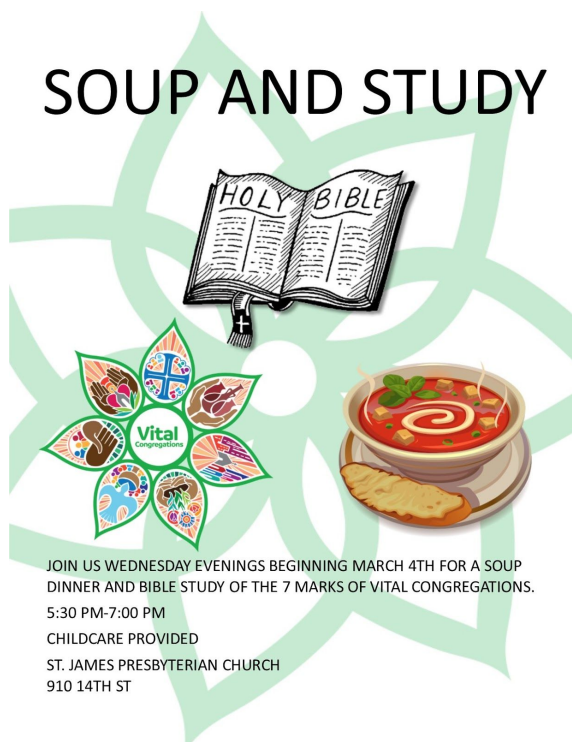
SHOUT OUT to Kyle Anderson for completing his first-ever Marathon on February 22 as he and Lindsay both ran the 26.2 mile Fort Ebey Kettle Trail Run! This was Lindsay's longest-ever trail run, after completing many road marathons in the past. Go Team Anderson!



JOIN US FOR SOUP AND STUDY

During the season of Lent on Wednesdays, March 4th through April 8th, from 5:30-7:00PM St. James gathers to encourage and grow in fellowship. We will begin each session with a soup dinner and then follow with a discussion from the 7 Marks Bible Studies of Vital Congregations.

SOUP AND STUDY



JOIN US WEDNESDAY EVENINGS BEGINNING MARCH 4TH FOR A SOUP
DINNER AND BIBLE STUDY OF THE 7 MARKS OF VITAL CONGREGATIONS.
5:30 PM-7:00 PM
CHILDCARE PROVIDED
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
910 14TH ST

2020 LENT SEASON BEGINS

By Presbyterian Mission Agency shares An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003 110-111). The 2020 Lent Season is February 26th - April 8th.



Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 26, Lent is 40 days of a time of prayer, fasting, and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the **Easter Vigil**. In many communities of faith, it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship.

What we hear during **Lent** is the power and possibility of the [paschal mystery](#), and that the way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death. To appropriate the new life that is beyond the power of death means we must die with Christ who was raised for us. To live for Christ, we must die with him. New life requires a daily surrendering of the old life, letting go of the present order, so that we may embrace the new humanity. *"I die every day!"* asserts Paul (1 Corinthians 15:31). Resurrection necessitates death as a preceding act. The church's peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the "old self." In dying, we live.

Therefore, at the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families and even our lives do not last forever. *"You are dust, and to dust you shall return"* (Genesis 3:19). The liturgies throughout Lent try to pry loose our fingers, one by one, from presumed securities and plunge us into unknown baptismal waters, waters that turn out to be not only our death tomb but surprisingly our womb of life. Rather than falling back into nothingness, we fall back on everlasting arms. Death? How can we fear what we have already undergone in baptism?

It is the power of the resurrection on the horizon ahead that draws us into repentance toward the cross and tomb. Through the intervention of God's gracious resurrection, lifelong changes in our values and behavior become possible. By turning from the end of the "old self" in us, Lenten repentance makes it possible for us to affirm joyfully, *"Death is no more!"* and to aim toward the landscape of the new age. Faithfully adhering to the Lenten journey of "prayer, fasting, and almsgiving" leads to the destination of Easter.

During the final week, **Holy Week**, we hear the fullness of Christ's passion, his death, and resurrection. From Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and on to the **Triduum** (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), all of Holy Week focuses on the passion. As his followers, we travel Christ's path of servanthood through the Lord's Supper and the suffering of the cross toward the glory of Easter, all of which underscores the inseparable link between the death and resurrection of Jesus.

(Read more at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/worship-resources-lent/> and <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/palm-sunday-all-roads-lead-to-the-paschal-mystery-of-christ-dying-and-rising/>)

(photo credit: A depiction of Jonah from the façade of the Amiens Cathedral (thirteenth century).)

lenten pilgrimage

Maundy Thursday

April 9th, 6pm soup & service

Cordata Presbyterian Church

Childcare for age 6 and younger

Good Friday/Tenebrae

April 10th, 7:30pm

First Presbyterian Church of Bellingham

Childcare for birth - age 4

Godly Play for Preschool - 5th grade



HAPPY ST. PATRICKS DAY FROM ST. JAMES

On St. Patrick's Day Presbyterians may reflect and celebrate our Celtic history, Scottish Celts may we be. Nonetheless, or the more, here is a special Pulse holiday feature of quotes and blessings for St. Patrick's day by the saint himself.



"I arise today Through the strength of heaven: Light of sun, Brilliance of moon, Splendor of fire, Speed of lightning, Swiftness of wind, Depth of sea, Stability of earth, Firmness of rock."

"Before I was humiliated I was like a stone that lies in deep mud, and He who is mighty came and in His compassion raised me up and exalted me very high and placed me on the top of the wall."

"So I turned with all my heart to the Lord my God, and he looked down on my lowliness and had mercy on my youthful ignorance. He guarded me before I knew Him, and before I came to wisdom and could distinguish between good and evil. He protected me and consoled me as a father does for his son."



Christ, as a light
illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield
overshadow me.
Christ under me;
Christ over me;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Christ as a light;
Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.

ST. JAMES STAFF IS AT YOUR SERVICE

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas
Children & Family Ministry Director: Tracy Caruso
Worship & Music Leader: Dylan Cisneros
Accompanist: Luke Arnold
Treasurer: Marina McLeod
Administrative Assistant: Shannon Laws
Nursery: Claire Alarid, Tova Breen, Fiona Dent,
Frankie Morrissey, Lucy Sieczka

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesdays 9:00am-12:00pm
Thursday, Friday 9:00am-2:00pm



Daylight Savings begins Sunday, March 8th

SESSION

Moderator: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas
Clerk of Session: Mark Beaty
Building & Grounds: Aaron Caruso
Christian Faith Formation: Sarah Condreay
Finance & Stewardship: Lindsay Anderson
Membership & Congregation Life: Susan Diemont-Conwell
Mission & Social Action: Carol Dellecker
Nominating: Jenny Sue LeSchander & Sarah Condreay
Personnel: Faye Hill
Trustees: Sarah Condreay, Mark Beaty, Aaron Caruso
Worship & Music: Nebiyu Tesfa

DEACONS

Moderator: Alice Beaty
Marlene Amman, Alice Beaty, Adam Beaty, Pam Gibson
Julie Keyes, Valerie McBeth, Rick Seater, Jean Seater, Carla Shafer

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Youth Bible Study (Second Mondays)
10:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Children's Time- Godly Play

UPCOMING EVENTS

COME CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER!

On Sunday, March 15th, we will be preparing and serving the Southside Community Meal at Our Savior's Lutheran Church at 5:00 pm. This is a community meal that is served monthly and opens to all. We need several people to help with set-up, food prep and cooking, serving and clean-up. Please sign up in the Horizon Room if you are willing to help. If you have questions, contact Ray Dellecker or Gretchen Pfueller.

ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB IN MARCH

The St. James Book Club meets the third Monday of the month, March 16th, at 7:00pm in the lounge. The current book is "In the Midst of Winter" by Isabel Allende. A novel that brings together three very different people in a mesmerizing story that travels from present-day Brooklyn to Guatemala in the recent past to 1970's Chile and Brazil. Copies of the book are available in the office.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON & BIBLE STUDY

The monthly Women's Bible study and the Women's Association luncheon will be held on Tues, Mar 24th. Bring a dish to share for the potluck luncheon and fellowship time.

Bible Study 10:30-11:30 (Lounge),

Luncheon 11:30-1:00 (Horizon Room)

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE INTERFAITH HOPE AUCTION!

Interfaith Coalition's Hope Auction happens on Saturday, March 28, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The auction will take place at the Four Points by Sheraton.

To donate an auction item and purchase tickets, please contact Pastor Seth or Interfaith Coalition at 360-734-3983 or through the website:

www.interfaith-coalition.org

SAVE THE DATES!

- ❖ Church Garage Sale fundraiser will be April 3rd and 4th from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Stay tuned for more details.
- ❖ 2020 All Church Retreat is August 28-30th at Warm Beach Camp. See Tracy Caruso for details.

<https://www.warmbeach.com/>

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3/3	Jody DeWilde	🎂
3/8	Martha Speer	🎂
3/11	Stacy Thomas	🎂
3/13	Richard Green	🎂
3/14	Virginia Green	🎂
3/17	Liam DeWilde	🎂
3/18	Madeleine Smith	🎂
3/21	Marion Dobbie	🎂
3/21	Pam Gibson	🎂
3/24	Zach Melrose	🎂
3/25	Peter & Mary van der Veen	💍
3/27	Donna Lane	🎂
3/28	Mike Smith	🎂
3/28	Margaret Humble	🎂

WHERE IS IT?



The usher sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Horizon Room. Sign up to meet, greet & usher folks that gather for worship.



Want to help brighten the chancel & altar with a bouquet? It's a beautiful way to mark a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. The sign-up sheet for Flower Ministry is in the Horizon Room on the right side of the bulletin board.



Need more? Get more St. James calendar information and sign up for our weekly emails and the monthly e-magazine *the Pulse*.

Visit our website:

<https://saintjamespres.org/>



Deadlines for church publications

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday, 2:00pm

Weekly email: Thursday, 2:00pm

Monthly "The Pulse": the 20th, 2:00pm

Email or talk with Shannon in the church office.

→ **ST. JAMES CALENDAR**

St. James New Members Course

Sunday, Mar 1, 9:00am

Building & Grounds Committee- Lounge

Tuesday, Mar 3, 5:30pm

Grief Support- Lounge

Wednesday, Mar 4th & 18th, 10:00am

Mission & Social Action- Lounge

Wednesday, Mar 4, 4:00pm

Finance Committee- Upper Level

Wednesday, Mar 4, 6:30pm

Session- Lounge

Sunday, Mar 8, 12:00pm

Worship & Music Committee- Lounge

Wednesday, Mar 11, 10:00am

St. James Work Party

Saturday, Mar 14, 9:00-11:00am

Southside Community Meal

Sunday, Mar 15, 5:00pm- Our Savior's Lutheran

Deacons- Lounge

Sunday, Mar 15, 11:45am

St. James Book Club- Lounge

Monday, Mar 16, 7:00pm

**Pres. Women Bible Study & Luncheon
(The Lounge & Horizon Room)**

Tuesday, Mar 24, 10:30am-1:30pm

→ **ST. JAMES WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Toddler Time

8:30am, Wednesdays

St. James Bell Choir

6:30pm, Thursdays

St. James Chancel Choir

7:30pm, Thursdays

→ **PROGRAMS SHARING OUR FACILITY**

AA Fairhaven Group- Fellowship Hall

7:15pm, Thursdays and Sundays (childcare)

AA Men's Book Study Group- Horizon Room

6:30pm, Mondays

AA SOS Men's Group- Horizon Room

6:00pm, Wednesdays

Bellingham Com. Chorus- Fellowship Hall

6:30pm, Tuesdays

Bellingham Ukulele Group- Fellowship Hall

1:00pm, 2nd Saturday

Boy Scouts Troop 7- Fellowship Hall

7:00pm, Mondays (except school holidays)

Happy Hour Al Anon- Horizon Room

5:30pm, Tuesdays

Overeaters Anonymous- Lounge

10:00am, Saturdays

St. James Fitness- Fellowship Hall

4:00pm, Mondays and Fridays

Tai Chi- Fellowship Hall

5:15pm, Mondays

WA Gender Alliance- Godly Play Room

7:30pm, Thursdays

Weavers Guild- Fellowship Hall

9:30am, 3rd Saturday

Yoga- Horizon Room

10:15am, Tuesdays and Thursdays

You Are Not Alone (YANA)- Lounge

6:00pm, 2nd Monday

Bayside Co-op Preschool

Hawthorne Learning Solutions

Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County





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