



THE JOURNEY SO FAR

It's April! Spring is here, the weather is getting warmer, Spring Break has started, and we are only halfway through Lent. The Easter celebrations seem far off, yet our Lenten journey continues.

We set out in this season of focus and discipline with the end in mind. We fix our eyes on the cross and the empty tomb, expecting the hope of resurrection. We anticipate the goodness of the destination — the celebration of restoration and the start of new life that comes as we experience God's mercy and grace in our lives. But what about the midpoint?

What happens part-way through the journey? How are we supposed to live at the place along the road where we start to think it would be better turn back, give up, or go another direction? As much as I want to celebrate the hope of the destination, I know in my own journey of faith, the days are actually mostly filled with midway stations, stopping-off points where I have to catch my breath, take stock of my surroundings, and make a choice about whether or not I will continue onward.

And so, as we are “not-quite-there-yet” on our Lenten pilgrimage and our journey into Christ, I invite you to embrace that liminal space as well. Embrace the length of the journey and take stock of where you are. What has already begun to shift in you? What has been challenging about the Lenten work? What has God revealed to you thus far...can you name it, give thanks, and still hope for more?

I look back on these first two years as the pastor of St. James and marvel at how much we have grown and accomplished together. We are on this journey as a congregation. We started but are very much still pilgrims on the way, set out for a destination of renewed life together and revitalized commitment to our mission and purpose of being the presence of Christ in our world.

As I pause to reflect on the journey thus far, I am grateful for how God has woven our lives together. I reflect on all that God has taught me personally, and us communally, along this first leg of the journey. We have developed our children's and family programs; served with Family Promise; renewed our collaboration with our Presbyterian family; and added new bathrooms, new staff, and new faces! Like any rewarding journey, I look back with wonder on all that God has done in our midst.

And at this waypoint, I also look ahead to all that is to come. Hope is on the horizon. We have work to do together: refining our mission and purpose; hiring new staff as we bless and send others on to new chapters of life; fresh service opportunities in our community with schools and neighbors..the list goes on. We have not yet arrived, God has much in store for us.

This is the beauty of the journey of faith: at each midpoint, there is the expectation of what is to come. When the disciples arrive at the empty tomb of Easter Sunday, they begin to realize that the journey is far from over. Truly, the journey has only begun. Onward.

Grace and Peace,



Rev. Seth J. Thomas

RESPONSE

We love hearing how themes from *Grace & Peace* have connected with what God is doing in your own story. If you have a response to Pastor Seth's article from a recent Pulse issue, send it to us at office@saintjamespres.org.

This month, we would like to introduce some of our incoming church officers. Throughout the year, *Response*, will feature members of our vibrant congregation. We hope these brief introductions prompt reflection, spark conversations and create opportunities for meaningful connections in our church family and community.

CARLA SHAFER

Deacon, Class of 2021



I'm glad to be a Deacon because it gives me a way to get be in contact with people who I see on Sundays, but hardly know. I look forward to visiting with members in personal ways that help us feel something of God's goodness. I expect to learn how God is present in some of our members' lives, and that may allow me to learn more about how God is present in my own life.

Beyond that, I get to get together with other Deacons, which has already been friendly and spiritually rich. Julie Keyes shared some wisdom that she received when she was ordained as Deacon and had expressed doubts about just what kind of job it was. Earl VanderWerff, our friend in church choir, said, "Oh, you will find your way. Everyone comes with certain gifts and you will figure out how to use them as a Deacon. Not everyone does it the same and that's okay." Like Julie, I find Earl's words reassuring. I imagine that being a Deacon is a chance to open up to new possibilities. We'll see.

CAROL DELLECKER

Elder, Class of 2021



I'm honored to become an elder at St. James Presbyterian. I was raised in the Presbyterian church, but I didn't attend church regularly as an adult until we moved to Washington thirty years ago. I previously served as an elder at Sammamish Presbyterian Church on the New Building Committee and the Pastor Nominating Committee. I'm also a member of the board of Whatcom Community Foundation, and volunteer at Alderwood Elementary School.

Ray and I have 3 wonderful daughters and sons-in-law and are blessed with 5 grandchildren. I'm extremely grateful for the many blessings God has given to me and my family. We appreciate the warm welcome we received when we came to St James Presbyterian. We are so delighted and impressed with SJP congregation's commitment to mission and inclusion, and would like to see these efforts continue and grow.



MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION

An enthusiastic team from St. James prepared and served a delicious dinner at the Southside Community meal on March 17. A traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner with potatoes and carrots was provided to over 110 appreciative folks, with accompanying Irish music by our own Pastor Seth.

Your Mission committee is in the process of allocating its portion of the 2019 budget for local, national and global agencies. We'll provide updates on how funds are dispersed.

SJP is also providing two baskets (thank you Susan Bergman for coordinating!) to sell at



the recent Interfaith auction and the upcoming Habitat for Humanity auction. Several SJP folks attended the Interfaith auction which raised over \$200,000.

Under the leadership of Tracy Caruso, St. James is fostering a deeper partnership with our nearby neighbor, Lowell Elementary School. We expect that a number of volunteer opportunities will emerge from the relationship.

We welcome your inquiries about SJP's mission and social outreach opportunities. Please contact Ray Dellecker for more information.

17th ANNUAL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AUCTION

Join us at the **Raise The Roof Auction** and **Trashion Show** to help bring our 11 partner families one step closer to home.



When: Friday, April 26th, 2019; 6:00pm

Where: The Depot Market in Downtown Bellingham
[1100 Railroad Avenue Bellingham WA](#)

Tickets: \$50.00 per person or \$350 for a table of 8.
[Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

Each ticket includes entrance to the auction, mouth-watering appetizers and catered dinner, 2 drinks (beer or wine), live music, games, and live and silent auctions. All proceeds support Telegraph Townhomes and permanent, affordable homes in Whatcom County. Thank you for your support!

FINANCE UPDATE

	February 2019	Current Budget	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date Budget
Income	\$17,435	\$17,380	\$48,162	\$43,255
Expenses	\$15,608	\$19,772	\$33,165	\$39,133

We are off to a good start from an income perspective. Online giving is continuing to be available if you desire to use this option.

Dick Carr, Finance Committee Chair



CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

Greetings from your Children and Family Ministries Director,

Spring is here! We have had a busy end to winter and start to spring: our Toddler Time program is continuing to grow; we had another great Bingo night last Friday; our Wednesday evening Lenten study group is having a great time discussing John Pavlovitz's *A Bigger Table*; and Godly Play is working through Lent with our *Faces of Easter* stories.

We want to give a huge thank you to Claude Hill for his beautiful woodworking that he so generously gifts us with - Claude recently created our amazing *Faces of Easter* Godly Play materials...words do not express our gratitude! Claude routinely helps us by crafting not just functional, but beautiful materials for our Godly Play curriculum. We are so blessed to have his skill and support!

Easter is coming! We will be hosting an Easter Egg hunt after church on Easter Sunday, April 21. Depending on weather, the hunt will be held outside on the front lawn or downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. We are looking for donations of **nut free, individually-wrapped** candies!



Summer is just around the corner, that means it is time to register for VBS. St. James is partnering again with First Presbyterian and St. Paul's Episcopal to hold *To Mars and Beyond* Vacation Bible School, June 24-28, 2019 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Registration is open for just the partnering churches until April 15 when it will open to the public. You can register online at tinyurl.com/marsVBS19. Last year we filled up before the end of April so get your registration in fast! We are also in need of volunteers, please let Tracy know if you are able to help that week.

Tracy Caruso
Director of Children & Family Ministries
tracy@saintjamespres.org

GODLY PLAY SCHEDULE

- **April 7th: Faces of Easter VI**
Lent is the season when we prepare for Easter. We move toward the Mystery of Easter by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week's presentation focuses on the face of Christ as he enters Jerusalem and offers the Twelve (and us) the bread and wine. *Godly Play students will be invited to join the adults for communion.
- **April 14th: Faces of Easter VII**
This last presentation focuses on the faces of Christ on the cross and Easter.
- **April 21st: Easter Eggs**
Our culture's Easter Eggs have little to do with the Easter that we celebrate as Christians, but the eggs of Eastern Europe do. In this lesson, children are introduced to those eggs in a way that reclaims a wonderful sign of new life.
- **April 28th: Work Day**

We are always looking for volunteer nursery workers or anyone interested in teaching Godly Play, please let Tracy know if you are interested in either. Our wish list is up-to-date with current "wishes" for our Godly Play program.

<http://www.wishlistr.com/saintjamescfm/>

LENTEN STUDY

We will be holding a weekly Lenten study on Wednesday evenings. We will be reading and discussing [A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community](#) by John Pavlovitz. Discussions will be held on Wednesdays through April 17th from 6:30pm-7:30pm. The first meeting will be held at Colophon Cafe in Fairhaven. Childcare will be available at St. James from 6:15pm-7:45pm while the group meets. Please contact Tracy or Seth if you are interested in joining us, all are welcome!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Our Sunday morning adult education class is studying the lectionary texts each week. The class starts at 9:30am in the lounge, childcare is available in the nursery.



LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

Join us as we continue our Lenten Pilgrimage with a Maundy Thursday service at Birchwood Presbyterian on April 18 at 7:00pm and a Good Friday service at First Presbyterian Church on April 19 at 7:30pm. Childcare will be provided for each service.



PC(USA) Environmental Ministries recently recertified St. James as an Earth Care Congregation! The goal of the program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all of church life. To become an Earth Care Congregation churches affirm the Earth Care pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all facets of congregational life including worship, education, facilities and outreach. Here's a brief excerpt from our renewal letter:

"The commitment that your church continues to show for caring for God's earth is an inspiration, and your ministry is appreciated. Thank you for all you have done since your earth care journey was first recognized."

Check out our current certificate in the Narthex on Sunday!



Words cannot express the gratitude we have for the congregations, businesses, and individuals who helped make our auction such a great success! We celebrate the work we do together to bring hope to families, and we honor the children and adults we serve, who share their struggle and victory with us each day. Thank you all!

For over 35 years, the member congregations of Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County have been working together to eliminate homelessness and poverty in Whatcom County. www.interfaith-coalition.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

RUMMAGE SALE

The Women's Association Annual Rummage Sale is next Saturday, April 6, 9:00am to 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Donations can be brought to the church anytime next week including the morning of set-up day, Friday April 5. Volunteers are needed to help on April 5 beginning at 9:00am to help set up tables, display goods, and price items. On the April 6 we need help hosting the sale and cleaning up. People with trucks/vans are especially needed at 3:00pm on Saturday, April 6 for hauling away leftover goods. To volunteer, just attend (!) or contact Alice Beaty at alice_beaty@msn.com.

LOWELL ELEMENTARY

St. James is partnering with our neighbor, Lowell Elementary, to provide snacks for hungry students. They would also love to have volunteers willing to spend an hour each week with students who have been identified as needing some extra one-on-one time. Please contact Tracy for a list of approved snacks and Ray Dellecker for more information about volunteering!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The monthly Bible study and luncheon (soup & bread) is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23. Everyone is invited to attend the study at 10:30am and the luncheon at noon.

ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB

The books are in! Stop by the office to check out a copy and join us Monday, April 15 at 7:00pm. Our selection for the April meeting is *The Power of One* by Bryce Coutenay. The book club will be meeting in the St. James Lounge this month.

PRAYER VIGIL POSTPONED

The Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East overlaps with Maundy Thursday this month and will be postponed until May 18. Stay tuned for details in next month's Pulse.

EASTER TULIPS

This year we are choosing living arrangements of 2-3 potted tulips for our Easter service. Each arrangement is \$10. We will be preordering two dozen tulips and need your order(s) by Sunday, April 7. Plants can be purchased in honor, memory, or celebration of a loved one and will be available to take home after our Easter service on April 21 for those who pre-ordered! Please contact Cheryl McGregor at cmcgregor54@gmail.com with any questions.

GIVE TO SAINT JAMES ONLINE

Using our online system you can give from your bank account, make a one-time donation, set up recurring gift, designate your gifts as part of your annual pledge, and designate your per capita contribution.

saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving

CHURCH PIANIST/ACCOMPANIST

We are seeking to hire someone for ongoing support of the music program at St. James. If you know someone who may be interested, please have them contact Carolyn Mullen at zolvahn@gmail.com with a cover letter and resume.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/4	Gil Thurston	
4/9	Kate Hoskin	
4/12	Sally Crandall	
4/16	Erin Keyes	
4/17	Bruce Kraig	
4/18	Zach Mullen	
4/20	Sally Albers	
4/23	Mark Beaty	
4/25	Valerie McBeth	
4/29	Cheryl McGregor	
4/30	Annah Baker	

→ **ST. JAMES CALENDAR**

Personnel Committee

Tuesday, April 2, 9:00am

Building & Grounds Committee

Tuesday, April 2, 5:30pm

Lenten Study

Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17; 6:30pm

Rummage Sale Set-Up

Friday, April 5, 9:00am

Rummage Sale

Saturday, April 6, 9:00am

Finance Committee

Tuesday, April 9, 6:00pm

Worship & Music Committee

Wednesday, April 10, 10:00am

Mission & Social Action Committee

Wednesday, April 10, 4:00pm

Christian Faith Formation Committee

Wednesday, April 10, 5:00pm

Prime Timers

Friday, April 12, 12:00pm

Session

Sunday, April 14, 12:00pm

St. James Book Club

Monday, April 15, 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday Service

Birchwood Presbyterian, April 18, 7:00pm

Good Friday Service

First Presbyterian, April 19, 7:30pm

Pres. Women Bible Study & Luncheon

Tuesday, April 23, 10:30am

- ★ See **Upcoming Events** (pg. 6) for featured activities and current happenings in our church and community.

→ **ST. JAMES WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Adult Education Class

9:30am, Sundays

Grief Support

10:00am, 1st and 3rd Mondays

→ **ST. JAMES WEEKLY CALENDAR**

(continued)

Toddler Time

8:30am, Wednesdays

St. James Bell Choir

6:30pm, Thursdays

St. James Chancel Choir

7:30pm, Thursdays

→ **PROGRAMS SHARING OUR FACILITY**

AA Men's Book Study Group

6:30pm, Mondays

AI Anon

5:30pm, Tuesdays

AA SOS Men's Group

6:00pm, Wednesdays

AA Fairhaven Group

7:15pm, Thursdays and Sundays

OA

10:00am, Saturdays

You Are Not Alone (YANA)

6:00pm, 2nd Monday

WA Gender Alliance

7:30pm, Tuesdays

St. James Fitness

4:00pm, Mondays and Fridays

Tai Chi

5:15pm, Mondays

Yoga

10:15am, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Bellingham Community Chorus

7:00pm, Tuesdays

Bellingham Ukulele Group

1:00pm, 2nd Saturday

Weavers Guild

9:30am, 3rd Saturday

Boy Scouts Troop 7

7:00pm, Mondays

Bayside Co-op Preschool

Hawthorne Learning Solutions

Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County



910 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

www.saintjamespres.org

office@saintjamespres.org

(360) 733-1325

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-2:00pm

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Children's Time and Godly Play

St. James Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas

Children & Family Ministry: Tracy Caruso

Ministry Assistant: Kate Hoskin

Treasurer: Marina McLeod

Music Director: Carolyn Mullen

Teachers: Erika Singh-Cundy, Sophie Rose Kendrick, Lucy Sieczka

Nursery: Holly Jones, Claire Alarid