

WHAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU?

Summer is here, the sun is shining, and all the expectations of a season of fun and rest is upon us. This past month, we've celebrated many milestones in our gathered life at St. James. We prayed for God's blessing on the growing population of children in our midst, joyously marking the end of the school year and the milestones of faith formation. We honored our staff, who faithfully serve in the work God calls us to as a congregation. And finally, we bid a fond farewell to our beloved Music Director, Carolyn Mullen, after her many years of service at St. James! We have celebrated, we have looked back, we've looked forward. And through it all, we see God's faithfulness to us along the journey.



As we enter the Summer months, I also feel we are invited to look at what is directly in front of us, what is happening at this moment, at this stop along the road. These months of the year often include a flurry of activity, travel, reunions with family and friends. And they also offer us moments to slow down and gain perspective. These are moments to check the map, to pause and get our bearings, to plot or reset our course as we account for the place we are right now.

What is right in front of you right now? For me, I sense that what's right in front of me is the opportunity to rest and restore with family and friends. I love Bellingham in the Summer. I need time in the yard, caring for our home, playing with Asher. I find rest and restoration through hiking and biking and exploring, as well. We recently hiked the Chanterelle Trail at North Lake Whatcom. While lugging a 45 lb. four-year-old on my back was difficult, I recognize I need those spaces to push my body, to breathe fresh air, and to spend time in God's good creation. For me, being in the moment and appreciating it allows me to hear God a bit more, notice God's presence a little more clearly, feel the breath of God in my lungs a little more.

To be in the moment, focused on what is in front of us, is not to escape the problems of the world or ignore what needs doing. Rather, it's the way the people of God have always returned to the center, to the focal point, to the grounded place of their purpose and calling in order to go out and engage the struggles of the world. Jesus went away to the hills to be silent and prayer, again and again. Each time he did, he returned with wisdom and truth to speak, his calling renewed and refocused.

So again, I ask, what is right in front of us? Is it the need to seek rest and a slower pace? Does your restoration come through being amongst the ones you love, telling stories and sharing in all the ways God has been faithful, as we have done this last month among our shared family of God at St. James? I pray that we might become a people who would learn to take these moments to pause and seek answers to that question: what is right in front of us? To prepare. To integrate. To restore.

There is much work to be done and it is a deep responsibility of God's people to be awake, alive, and engaged to do this work in the world. And so, my friends, what is in front of you and how will you honor it?

Grace and Peace,



Rev. Seth J. Thomas

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION

By Ray Dellecker

We've had a busy month! We welcome your questions and invite you to join us at our next meeting at 4 pm Wed July 17.

Snacks sufficient for the rest of the school year were delivered to Lowell Elementary School. St James will continue to participate in the **Faith-based / School Partnership** with Lowell School in 2020.

The **Pentecost special collection** was held on June 9. Forty percent of this collection is retained by our church for youth services, and we directed these funds to Northwest Youth Services. St. James volunteers will be needed to assist Sacred Heart Catholic Church when they host our **Family Promise** families the week of August 25th.



Climate Change: The MSA committee believes climate change has significant equity issues and has begun learning more about the impacts locally and internationally. We are participating in a newly formed local **inter-church climate change group** with about a dozen faith communities. Enthusiasm was high as attendees shared ideas on what their churches are doing to reduce their carbon footprint. Meetings are continuing.

We recently hosted a climate **change information program** led by David Roberts of the City of Bellingham's Climate Action Plan Task Force. About 30 people from several nearby churches, schools, and neighborhood associations attended.

We also learned about local government efforts. The Bellingham City Council Task Force has been meeting to propose how to reduce carbon emissions in transportation, increase renewable energy, green buildings, and waste reduction. Also discussed were land use, energy efficiency, and conservation. Whatcom County Council has created the Climate Impact Advisory Committee (CIAC) to update the county's climate plan by the end of this year. Like the city, the county plans to move to 100% green power and require LEED standards for government buildings.

St. James folks are diligent in making our facility "greener," more efficient, and less wasteful. We have begun to offer awareness for living in a framework of concern for creation into our everyday Christian living. You may have noticed the effort to identify and separate compostables (things that rot), recyclables (cans, glass, and plastic), and things that go into the landfill. We encourage everyone to be mindful of these impacts.

"One thing we know: our god is also your god.

The earth is precious to god and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its creator."

- Chief Seattle (chief of 'Dkhw'Duw'Absh' and 'Suquamish' peoples)

FINANCE UPDATE

By Dick Carr, Finance Chair

Note: Our expenses are down as no Mission related funds have been expended.

	MAY	CURRENT BUDGET	YR TO DATE	YR TO DATE BUDGET
Income	\$15,822	\$16,670	\$105,726	\$93,978
Expenses	\$21,684	\$18,221	\$98,208	\$105,295

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

CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION



Greetings from your CFM Director!

What an amazing June we had around St. James! We started our month with an incredible celebration of all our St. James kids! We were able to honor and celebrate the 23 incredible kids we serve at St. James.

Early in June, we welcomed a new addition to our St. James family! Eden Grace Engells was born to Zack and Oliva, and big brother

Cedric. All are doing well. A big thank you to all that helped provide them with some meals as they were adjusting to the new addition.



Godly Play wrapped up for the summer on June 9th with Pentecost being the final lesson. It was a successful second year of using the Godly Play curriculum and we are looking forward to a third year with most of the kinks worked out. Godly Play will resume on September 8th.

June ended with a bang! St. James again partnered with St. Paul's Episcopal and First Presbyterian to host a Vacation Bible School. This year we served 170 kids ages 3 through 5th grade! It was an amazing week with the kids "blasting off to outer space" with fun, games, music, science, Godly Play stories, and best of all a pie in the face for Pastor Seth. A HUGE Thank You to all who helped by donating snacks or being at VBS, your support was invaluable in bringing God's love to the 170 kids we served!

Over the rest of the summer, we are looking forward to a couple of youth events, and the All Church potluck on the 21st. During the summer months, instead of Godly Play, we will be using the lectionary based Illustrated Children's Ministry curriculum for students. They can stay in service and work on the bulletins provided, or they can be downstairs in the staffed nursery.

Looking ahead to September and the return of Godly Play we will be looking for Godly Play Teachers and Nursery staff. If you are feeling able or willing to help with our program, please let Tracy know! Volunteers are always needed, and much appreciated!

I hope everyone has a great summer!

Tracy Caruso
Director of Children and Family Ministries

(Photo credit: Pastor Seth gets a pie in the face at VBS 2019, Tracy Caruso)

INTERFAITH NOTE OF THANKS

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

PULSE ON GROUPS: YOU ARE NOT ALONE



*Ever wonder what the group **YANA** is about? Pulse on Groups met up with the coordinator Pippa Breakspear, M.Ed., CDP, CC, PLLC, to find out. The group is currently on summer break and will resume Monday, September 9th.*

YANA is a facilitated support group for parents and family members, who have an adult child using drugs, alcohol and other compulsions, or in recovery. The objective is to develop a deeper understanding of addiction and support your adult child in their recovery without rescuing and enabling. Love and compassion with really good boundaries! If a parent's behavior helps sustain an adult child's unhealthy lifestyle which they are unable to sustain themselves, that might be part of the problem.

The group offers fellowship, the sharing of personal experiences and resources while honoring the principles of anonymity and confidentiality.

WHEN: (starting in September) Every 2nd Monday of the month from 6:00 - 7:30 PM.

WHERE: St. James Presbyterian Church, 910 14th St., Bellingham, WA 98225.

COST: \$5 suggested donation to cover the room rental. Everyone is welcome, regardless of their ability to contribute financially. (photo credit: [Surrender2sobriety](#))

ST. JAMES ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

The All Church Picnic will be Sunday, July 21 following the worship service. The Deacons will provide hot dogs, drinks and ice cream. Please bring a dish to share. A sign up to help with the picnic will be in the Horizon Room.



MORE LIGHT PRESBYTERIANS



You may have noticed a new symbol at the bottom of our bulletins. St. James Presbyterian is listed nationally with the **More Light Presbyterians** as a church that supports the LGBTQIA+ community. More Light Presbyterians engage over 230 congregations and thousands of individuals in the Presbyterian Church (USA), enabling Presbyterians to lead LGBTQIA+ service and advocacy in communities nationwide. More Light's mission has always been to empower and equip individuals and congregations to live into their welcome for LGBTQIA+ people.

"We're working toward the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) – and in society." -More Light Presbyterians

Learn more by visiting their website: <https://mlp.org/>

ST. JAMES STAFF IS AT YOUR SERVICE

DEACONS

Co-Moderators, Sue Smith & Alice Beaty

Parish 1: Alice Beaty and Adam Beaty

Parish 2: Merry Thomas and Jim Gresham

Parish 3: Julie Keyes and Carla Shafer

Parish 4: Marlene Amman and Kate Haworth

Parish 5: Karen & Dwayne Rogers and Pam Gibson

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Children's Time



St. James Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas

Children & Family Ministry: Tracy Caruso

Administrative Assistant: Shannon Laws

Treasurer: Marina McLeod

Music Director: Julian Fajardo

Nursery: Erika Singh-Cundy, Sophie Rose Kendrick, Lucy Sieczka, Holly Jones, Claire Alarid

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER BREAK

Many of the groups that meet at St. James are on a summer break until September. Unsure if your group is meeting July & August? Call the church office on Tuesday - Friday, 9am to 2pm to find out.

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

St. James offices will be closed in observance of the holiday.

ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB

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

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Save the Date! Annual Church Picnic will be Sunday, July 21 following worship. (Set-up time for volunteers is Saturday, July 20, 2:00pm at the church.) The Deacons will provide hot dogs, beverages, and ice cream. Please bring a side dish to share.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

For the summer months, the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study group will meet for a potluck luncheon only. Join us on Tuesday, July 23, 12:00pm. Everyone is invited to attend.


















CANOE JOURNEY 2019

July 24-28th. The local Lummi Tribe is hosting this international and public event the first time since 2007! For more information visit paddletolummi.org or contact Community Connections, 360-920-6879.

ST. JAMES TURNS 130!

Thoughts are turning nostalgic as we consider the 130 years St. James has been serving the community. Our monthly newsletter "The Pulse" is seeking stories to share throughout the year. Have a story to share? Please email a one-page "memory" to the church office office@saintjamespres.org, or call us with questions: 360-733-1325.

JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

7/1	Milt Shays	
7/2	Jo McLeod	
7/3	Parker DeWilde	
7/4	Carolyn Mullen	
7/4	Greg Kendall	
7/5	Pat Nelson	
7/9	Jim and Jody DeWilde	
7/10	Bill Butler	
7/12	Merry Thomas	
7/14	Max Anderson	
7/16	Dave and Pat Nelson	
7/16	Karen Rogers	
7/17	Karen Harnden Haggren	
7/18	Charlotte Burkland	
7/20	Nebiyu Tesfa	
7/21	David and Melany Armstrong	
7/24	Colleen Komenda	
7/24	Randy and Teresa Bowers	
7/25	Ed Simmers	
7/25	Betsy Freeman	
7/26	Rob Monahan	
7/29	Rory Anderson	
7/29	Seth and Stacy Thomas	
7/31	Brian Seater	

→ ST. JAMES CALENDAR

Personnel Committee

Tuesday, July 2, 9:00am

Building & Grounds Committee

Tuesday, July 2, 5:30pm

Finance Committee

Tuesday, July 2, 6:15pm

Mission & Social Action Committee

Wednesday, July 3, 3:30pm

Christian Faith Formation Committee

Wednesday, July 3, 7:00pm

Deacons

Sunday, July 7, 11:45pm

Worship & Music Committee

Wednesday, July 10, 10:00am

Session

Sunday, July 14, 12:00pm

St. James Book Club

Monday, July 15, 7:00pm

Grief Support

Wednesday, July 17, 10:00am

Set-up for All Church Picnic

Saturday, July 20, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Church Picnic

Sunday, July 21, 11:45am - 3:00pm

Pres. Women Bible Study & Luncheon

Tuesday, July 23, 12:00pm

AA SOS Men's Group

6:00pm, Wednesdays

AA Fairhaven Group

7:15pm, Thursdays and Sundays

Overeaters Anonymous

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, Summer Session

Bellingham Ukulele Group

1:00pm, 2nd Saturday

Weavers Guild

9:30am, 3rd Saturday

Boy Scouts Troop 7

7:00pm, Mondays (On Summer Break)

Bayside Co-op Preschool

(On Summer Break)

Hawthorne Learning Solutions

Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County

→ ST. JAMES WEEKLY CALENDAR

Toddler Time

8:30am, Wednesdays (On Summer Break)

St. James Bell Choir

6:30pm, Thursdays (On Summer Break)

St. James Chancel Choir

7:30pm, Thursdays (On Summer Break)

→ PROGRAMS SHARING OUR FACILITY

AA Men's Book Study Group

6:30pm, Mondays

AI Anon

5:30pm, Tuesdays



Sign up for email updates and view a full list of calendar events at our website:

<https://saintjamespres.org/>



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