

the Pulse

September 2018

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Praying Together

"In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God."

"For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God."

Colossians 1:3-6, 9-10

This last month, the Session of St. James Presbyterian gathered together for a day-long retreat. We prayed together for you, the members of our church, and the broader community of Bellingham. We asked God for direction and vision for the ways we are called to share the good news of the God's love with our world in the year ahead. We asked questions like "What is God out ahead of us doing?" and "How does God want us to participate in our city...in our neighborhood...with the people around us?"

Out of these prayers and conversation, a few ideas emerged, which we will begin working on in this up-

coming season, pursuing the work God is calling our congregation to. One such direction was this: We sensed that God is calling us to "practice regular opportunities to pray together and alone." We sense that God is inviting us into a deeper engagement in prayer in our shared life together, in our daily routines, with our families, and individually with our every breath. As the people of God, we believe that prayer is powerful. Prayer is the way we know God's love intimately. Prayer is the space where we can speak to God of our needs, our longings and desires, our hopes. Prayer is where we can advocate for others, petitioning to God on behalf of the needs we see in the world. In prayer, we find that we can commune with God and know the Holy Spirit's presence wherever we are.

To find roots in this spiritual discipline, we are going to spend time in intentional prayer together as a church, starting this Fall. Practically, we are going to incorporate a shared prayer practice into our Sunday worship. We're going to provide some tools and resources for you to incorporate prayer more readily into your daily life as well. The hope is that by spending more intentional time in prayer together, we will continue to gain wisdom and insight into what God is doing all around us. We trust that through prayer, we will discern God's will more clearly and be empowered to pursue it with our lives.

Deepening the practice of prayer does not need to be difficult. It can start by simply paying attention to your breath. We breathe in and accept God's good presence into our bodies. We breathe out hopes, longings, desires, giving them to God. With every inhale and exhale, we take slow steps toward God, who is ready to receive us with grace.

I pray you will join in this intentional practice with us, taking simple, hopeful steps deeper into the goodness of the Creator.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Seth



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Finance Committee wants to remind everyone that the month of October is our annual stewardship campaign. This is another good year for St. James. Efforts with "Godly Play" is successful to the point that a Director of Children and Family Ministries has just been established to enable St. James to move forward with this program. The upgrade of our restrooms seems to be well received. More information is being finalized for the packets. Your name will appear on the outside of the packet as the packet contains information specific to you. The packets will be available to be picked up on September 29th at the worship service. A short informational get together will be held in the sanctuary after the service about the campaign. Please plan to pick up your packet and attend the informational get together.

- Dick Carr, Finance Chair

JULY FINANCIAL STATUS



	July	Current Budget	Yr. to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$21,760	\$16,620	\$133,249	\$128,906
Expenses	\$21,611	\$16,305	\$129,016	\$128,541



ONLINE DONATIONS!

Using our new system you can

- * Give from your bank account
- * Make a one-time donation or set up a recurring gift
- * Designate your gifts as part of your annual pledge
- * Designate your per capita contribution

Go to: <https://saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving>

Rehearsals for Chancel Choir and *Bell Choir* begin Thursday, Sept 6.



Bell Choir rehearsals are held at 6:30pm in the Horizon Room. Beginners are welcome, and we can always use more hands. Bell ringing is fun, interesting and satisfying.

The Chancel Choir rehearses in the Chancel area of the sanctuary, at 7:30pm. New singers are always welcome. No auditions, just join us!

If you're age 12 to 112, we'd love to welcome you to our St. James Music ensembles. Questions? Please call Music Director Carolyn Mullen at 360-595-0934.

Prayers for Peace

The September Prayer Vigil will be hosted by St. James Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. Cindy Bauleke, on Tuesday, September 18 at 5.30 p.m.





The end of summer is quickly approaching and for St. James that means the beginning of our Godly Play year. As we begin a new year I wanted to look back on how last year went. 2017/2018 were huge years for the development of our Children's ministries here at St. James. The adoption of the Godly Play program was a very exciting development for our Children's ministries. Godly Play combines Montessori methods with storytelling to create a way for children to wonder about themselves and about God, and helps children understand and use the language of religious narrative and symbol to allow them to express their spiritual nature.

Because of the uniqueness of the Godly Play curriculum, it has been a year of discovery and growth for both the children and the teachers. Even in just the first year we have seen some real excitement from our students. At the end of our Godly Play year in June the students were asked what their favorite part of Godly Play was. For Asher it was "Being with Max" and for Max it was "Being with Asher." But in addition to those buddies enjoying their time together, Max also said the "Work time" was his favorite part. Work Time was also Marcus' favorite part. An essential part of Godly Play is "Work time" because a child's play is their work; it is a way in which they can respond to the stories in different ways of play. Hailey loved the "Changing of the clock." Each lesson begins by looking at where we are in the Circle of the Church Year. She also liked "cleaning the shelves," another important aspect of Godly Play because it gives each student the experience of ownership in the classroom. Asher also said "the story of Noah's Ark" was a favorite part, and Selena loved all the "Stories"; many of the students had particular stories that they remember or were drawn to but overall the stories are at the core of Godly Play. The storytellers memorize each story, although "learning the stories by heart" is a more accurate description of what they do than "memorizing." The hope is that shift will transform the process from a task that must be accomplished to a joy that may be embraced. When the story sinks into the storyteller's heart, it also comes from their heart in the telling.

We are so excited to be starting our second year of Godly Play with these students and watching the stories be absorbed in new ways. We hope you can join us for our Parents Night on September 6th at 6pm, and/or after church on Sunday September 23rd, for an overview of our Godly Play program. All are welcome to either of these events. If you have children in Godly Play or are just wanting to learn more about this amazing ministry, we hope you will join us. Please let Tracy Caruso know if you will be able to make either or both sessions, as we will be serving food and would like to have count of how many to feed.



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September Godly Play Schedule:

September 2nd Last Sunday of Illustrated Children's Ministry

September 9th Fall Kick off for Godly Play

Circle of the Church Year: This lesson sets the context for the whole year. Each year, the Christian people move through a circle of memory and expectation to open themselves to the elusive presence of God. In the Godly Play classroom, we pay attention to this circle of movement each week. Each lesson of Godly Play will begin with the moving of Circle of the Church Year, inviting children to move through the Church's special kind of time.

September 16th Creation: With this lesson we begin to trace the elusive presence of the mystery of God in the story of God's people. We begin to play Hide-and-Seek with the Holy One and ask, "What can we Know of the Giver by the gift?"

September 23rd The Flood and the Ark: With this lesson we move with the people of God from the creation to the re-creation and God's promise to Noah, to God's family and to us.

September 30th The Great Family: In this lesson, we continue seeking the elusive presence of God. God was present at creation, blessing all that was made. Noah walked with God and was led by God's presence to build the ark that preserved life. And then? The people living around Abraham and Sarah believed that there were many gods embedded in nature. This meant that gods had to be "here" or "there." Abraham and his family believed that God was everywhere, but was that really true? What if they were to go into an unknown place or experience, would God be there? They were not sure of this, but they put their faith in God's promises and found them to be true.



Parent Night

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have children in Godly Play or are just wanting to learn more about this amazing ministry, we hope you will join us. Please let Tracy Caruso know if you will be able to make either or both sessions, as we will be serving food and would like to have a count of how many to feed.

Welcome Tracy Caruso—Director of Children & Family Ministries

Tracy is a native Washingtonian, and longtime Presbyterian. She grew up in Seattle attending Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, in 1999 moved to Bellingham to attend Western Washington University. She has directed 2 church preschools, taught Sunday school, led youth groups and currently owns her own nanny agency. As a member since 2010 Tracy is deeply invested in the people and families of St James. She became the chair of the CFF Committee and realized God was calling her back to a role in Christian education. She is excited to grow our Godly Play curriculum and the Children and Family Ministries program.

Tracy is married to Aaron Caruso and they have 2 daughters. In her free time Tracy enjoys reading, cooking, and spending time with her family exploring the numerous outdoor opportunities Bellingham has to offer.

You can reach Tracy at the church most mornings or via email at tracy@saintjamespres.org



FAMILY PROMISE

We've been wonderfully busy with our new Family Promise program, *thanks* to you all: TOGETHER we are making a huge difference – five families have already transitioned into their own homes, one more is close, and new families are arriving soon. They are all so grateful for your love and support. We received this note from one dad who moved his family from Family Promise last week into their own apartment:

Thank you...

My stay at the Family Promise program was awesome. I never expected to be in a program that offers so much help. It's amazing to be able to accomplish all I've set to accomplish in two months. The volunteers are great and it's pretty cool to have you guys as a family. There is no other program that compares to the efforts and consistency of help provided. It's good to know that Someone actually cares.

St. James will have another opportunity to help homeless families transition into permanent housing, employment and greater stability when our partner Sacred Heart welcomes FAMILY PROMISE to their parish hall, Sept. 9-17. Volunteers are needed to prepare dinners, set up and take down sleeping spaces, launder bedding, etc. A special training provided by Sacred Heart, "Protecting God's Children" will be offered before Sept 9 for those who would like to be with the families during the evening or overnight. There are also daily opportunities at the Family Promise Center for volunteers to offer a supportive presence with the parents and children.

Please contact Gretchen Pfueller for more information or to volunteer: gmpfueller@gmail.com



INTERFAITH COALITION
Partners in faith. Changing lives.

Family Promise®
of Whatcom County
a program of Interfaith Coalition

2ND ANNUAL
**Family Promise
BED RACE**

Race to end family homelessness!

SUNDAY, SEPT. 30, 2-4 P.M.
CIVIC FIELD PARKING LOT, BELLINGHAM

WWW.FAMILYPROMISEBEDRACE.COM

**Interfaith Coalition Announces
the Second Annual:
Family Promise BED RACE TO
END FAMILY HOMELESSNESS
September 30, 2018, Civic Field Parking Lot,
2PM – 4PM**

A fun event raising awareness and funds for a serious need, this competition involves teams building and renovating something into a bed that can be pushed on a race course. Companies/congregations/individuals can sponsor beds for the race, costumes and themes are part of the fun. Teams of 5 (4 pushers and 1 rider) will race head to head against other "Beds on Wheels" for bragging rights and prizes around a U-shaped track. Awards will be offered in several categories as well as for most funds raised. On race day there is a parade of beds before the event. Winners get trophies and bragging rights! All entries must be received by **September 23**.

Please contact Konrad Kocsis at:
familypromisebedrace@gmail.com for more info, or
see the website for examples and more details:
www.familypromisebedrace.com

PULSE



The 9:00 Adult Bible Study will begin a new study of the Book of Acts on September 9th. This is a 12 week study, concluding at the beginning of Advent. We will be using the study guide book titled Acts by N. T. Wright.

The mysterious presence of Jesus haunts the whole story of Acts. Jesus is announced as King and Lord, not as an increasingly distant memory, but as a living and powerful reality, a person who can be known and loved, obeyed and followed, a person who continues to act in the real world. We call this book "The Acts of the Apostles", but we should think of it as "The Acts of Jesus, Part Two". In this study we will have opportunities to see how Jesus' acts through the apostles inform and empower our acts today.

We invite you to journey with us through this amazing book of the Bible. If you would like a book or have questions about the study, please talk with Faye Hill. If you are interested in attending this class and will want child-care, please contact Tracy Caruso.

Please note that there will be no adult education class on September 2nd.

We are excited about the growth and development of our Children and Family Ministries here at St. James and encourage all to come and be a part of it with us.



September Birthdays

- 1 David Anderson
- 6 Margaret McVie
- 6 John Sibold
- 17 Dave Nelson
- 18 Ann Lary
- 21 Asher Thomas
- 23 Faye Hill
- 27 Ken Reimers
- 30 Phyllis Jones
- 30 Hannah Donnelly

September Anniversaries

- 7 Peter and Susan Burkland
- 11 Bill and Katy Read
- 14 Robb and Cheryl McGregor

Prime Timers

Prime timers will meet on Friday, Sept 14, at noon in the Horizon Room for a planning meeting and potluck.

Presbyterian Women

The women's bible study will resume Tues., Oct. 2 at 10:30 in the lounge. This year's Horizon study book theme is "God's Promise: I am with you." by Amy Poling Sutherlun. Booklets will be available at the meeting for those who haven't yet gotten one.

A potluck salad luncheon follows at noon in the Horizon Room. Everyone is invited.



SEPTEMBER 2018 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Bayside Co-op Preschool Schedule: 360-733-3972 Hawthorne Learning Solutions Schedule: hlearningsolutions@gmail.com					1 10am OA
2 10:30am Worship w/Communion 6:15pm AA Fair- haven	3 10am Grief Support Group 4pm St. James Fitness 5:15pm Tai Chi 6pm YANA 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	4 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30 Building and Grounds 6pm Finance 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	5 3:30pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA 7pm SouthHill Ngbhd Assc 7pm CFF commit- tee	6 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Congrega- tional Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel 7:15pm AA	7 4pm St. James Fitness	8 10am Memorial for Inge Thurston 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
9 9:30am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Session 3pm Memorial for Phil Jones 7:15pm AA Fair- haven	10 4pm St. James Fitness 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	11 10am Staff 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 7pm Bhm Comm Chorus 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	12 10am Worship Committee 6pm SOS Men's AA 7pm SouthHill Ngbhd Assc	13 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel 7:15pm AA	14 12pm Prime Tim- ers 4pm St. James Fitness	15 9:30am Weavers Guild 10am OA
16 <u>Pulse items due</u> 9:30am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons 7:15pm AA Fair- haven	17 10am Grief Support Group 4pm St. James Fitness 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	18 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Prayer Vigil 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	19 6pm SOS Men's AA	20 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel 7:15pm AA	21 4pm St. James Fitness	22 10am OA
23 9:30am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA Fair- haven	24 9am Personnel 4pm St. James Fitness 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts	25 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	26 2pm Membership 6pm SOS Men's AA	27 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel 7:15pm AA	28 3pm Membership committee 4pm St. James Fitness	29 10am OA
30 9:30am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA Fair- haven						





910 - 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
www.saintjamespres.org
office@saintjamespres.org
360-733-1325
Office Hours: Tue-Fri, 9am-2pm

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 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's Ministry: Tracy Caruso, Coordinator
Teachers: Erika Singh-Cundy, Sophie Rose Kendrick, Lucy Sieczka
Treasurer: Marina McLeod
Music Director: Carolyn Mullen
Pianist/Accompanist: Kaitlyn Ronstadt