

## (EXTRA)ORDINARY TIME

Peace be with you,

As September rolls around, we enter into the homestretch of the yearly Liturgical cycle. Each year the Church calendar cycles through Advent, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and ends its circuit with this longest, ordinariness of seasons, Ordinary Time. This year, it is an understatement to call this season anything less than extraordinary.

In our kitchen, we have a perpetual liturgical calendar sitting atop a shelf. We mark the seasons and flip the pages in remembrance of where we are and where we are heading. The cycle of the Liturgical wheel is something that can order our days, even when day-to-day things seem so disordered.

On the Ordinary Time page, some words describe the season's nature: Everyday rhythms, rituals, creativity. Growth, discipleship, cultivation. Flourishing, wholeness, intention. Presence. Stewardship. Attention, relationships, vocation, and ministry. Each word speaks to a characteristic of our Christian formation commonly practiced or explored in the season. And while this year has been nothing short of extraordinary, I resonate with the sentiments of this prolonged liturgical season nonetheless.

In particular, this season of (Extra)Ordinary Time has proven to be an opportunity for our church to experience Growth, Intention, and Everyday Rhythms. We have grown by stretching outside of our comfort zones and exploring ways to worship while scattered in this pandemic. We have been intentional about the ways we need to connect and respond to each other's needs and how we pay attention to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking. And we've found everyday rhythms: prayer, bread-making, long walks, phone calls with loved ones, study, exercise, meals with our closest kin. These are beautiful "Ordinary" ways of life that emerge from the extraordinary world we live in.

We practice the season of Ordinary Time, as well, to slow down, rest, and equip ourselves to take the next steps in the journey. I hope our recent sermon series on Rest, with our Bellingham Presbyterian partner churches, leaves you with the invitation to explore ordinary rhythms of sabbath keeping and intentional practices that rejuvenate and strengthen you for the days ahead. None of us expected or desired to take this kind of a break from "normal" and we did not plan for 2020 to be the way it has been. But I find myself wondering if this all has been God's way of inviting us to get the rest and ordinary life we so desperately need. I think about being a father to an energetic kid who wants to move and play and talk but never wants to nap. As I love him, I invite him to take the rest he needs because I (hopefully) know a little better about what will offer restoration.

This long season of Ordinary Time is an invitation. To prepare and make space. We may long for things to be finished and our busy lives from living before pandemic to come back online. But for a moment, I challenge you to ask: How can I resist the frenetic pace, at least for a little longer? How can I rest? How can I delight in the "ordinary" things I encounter each day? In closing, I'm reminded of how Jesus shared with the disciples about what would happen after he departed from them. He told them they would do greater things than even he had. Extraordinary things, we might say. And so, perhaps we are invited to embrace the ordinary goodness of this season so that we be prepared to continue on in the (Extra)Ordinary work God has for us.

Grace and Peace,



Rev. Seth Thomas



P.S. If you would like a perpetual liturgical calendar too, you can order them from Sacred Ordinary Days.

<https://sacredordinarydays.com/collections/liturgical-year>

## August Finance Committee Update - Looking Back to Look Ahead

*By Lindsay Anderson, Finance Chair*

This month the Finance Committee began work on our annual Stewardship Campaign. As we begin to look forward, I am reminded of the value of looking back. In December, when our congregation met to approve the 2020 Budget, never in a million years did I picture us here, weathering a global pandemic - yet here we are! And, thanks to God's ongoing faithfulness and your steady trust, Saint James continues to be resilient and hopeful.



Looking back, thanks to dedicated pledges, new giving, and prudent spending, we have been able to support a flexible and vital ministry. In many ways, our worship has become increasingly visible and connected to more people thanks to the creativity and nimbleness of our staff, session, deacons, and volunteers. While many things have been paused, new things have emerged - like the practice of daily prayer, Compassion Kids Camp, conversations about equity, and a look at what it means to stay connected in the digital age. I cherish the ways our community has been able to continue the mission of Loving Welcome, Joyful Practice, and Compassionate Service during this time.

Stewardship packets will be available digitally and in hard copy in September. The session and finance committee are grateful for your ongoing support. We are learning a lot in this season and we are excited to see what God will do in the coming months!

**Following is an update on Saint James Year to Date General Operating Budget:**

As of 7-31-2020	JULY 2020	JULY BUDGET	YR TO DATE	YR TO DATE BUDGET
Income	\$18,634	\$19,944	\$141,277	\$150,631
Expenses	\$17,862	\$19,874	\$137,813	\$154,903

**While we are worshipping at home during this time you can to give in TWO primary ways:**

1. **Online Giving:** You can give a one-time gift or create a recurring monthly pledge. Please visit this webpage to set up or update your online giving here: <https://saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving> if you are new to online giving we've got a handy video to show you how, here: <https://www.loom.com/share/5aea350026204a9cb3c955029dafbdd3>
2. **Mail-In Donations:** You can mail your pledges and gifts to the church. Please note that though the church office will be closed mail will be checked regularly.  
Saint James Presbyterian Church, 910 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

***Need assistance or would you like to schedule a contact-free donation pick-up?***

***Contact Marina McLeod, [stjamestreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:stjamestreasurer@gmail.com)***

## CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

*By Tracy Caruso, Children & Family Ministry Director*

Greetings from the Director of Children and Family Ministries. Another season has passed and we are still trying to figure out our new normal in the midst of COVID-19. I hope you all had a good summer and were able to enjoy our beautiful Bellingham parks and trails.

**The Children's Ministry** had a good August and finished up our first online Vacation Bible School Compassion Camp. We passed out bags and materials to 25 kids and had some great responses. Videos from **Compassion Camp**, including the final slide show, are still up on our website at [www.saintjamespres.org/compassion-camp](http://www.saintjamespres.org/compassion-camp). Thank you to everyone who participated and helped out!

Looking forward to September we will be beginning another year of **Godly Play** on September 13th. Stories will be recorded and shown via our live streaming services. Storytelling duties will be shared by Claire Alarid and myself.

**The Youth Group** will continue meeting via Zoom in September but will be meeting twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 3:30. Contact Tracy if you need the zoom link.

For adults we will be starting another Sunday morning book study on the topic of Race, reading Austin Channing Brown's, *I'm Still Here*. Pick up a copy and join us at 9:00AM on Zoom, using the Worship Service link to join early at 9:00.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday evening September 16th. We will be hosting a **Facebook Social Hour** at 7:00. Come join in and see how everyone is doing. We will be trying out the Facebook meeting rooms for this and can be accessed through our St. James Facebook page.

### Godly Play for September

September 13th

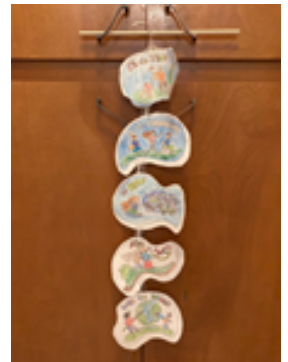
The Circle of the Church Year: This lesson sets the context for the whole year. Each year, the Christian people move through a circle of memory and expectation to open themselves to the elusive presence of God.

September 20th

The Holy Bible: This lesson focuses on where the Church's story comes from. It is part of a comprehensive approach to Christian formation that forms a spiral curriculum that enables children to move into adolescence with an inner working knowledge of the classical Christian language system to sustain them all their lives.

September 27th

Godly Play: Creation: With this lesson, we begin to tract 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?"



## PC(USA) provides prayer, hymn for churches during a time of racial injustice

by Gail Strange | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Law and order exists for the purpose of establishing justice and when they fail in this purpose, they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress.” Is the current unrest around the country and particularly in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Louisville, Kentucky, a result of decades of law and order failing in its purpose to establish justice?

The deaths of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd at the hands of police officers have set cities ablaze. The two incidents along with the murder of Ahmaud Arbery have rocked our nation. And it has one wondering if there will ever be justice for black people in America.



The African American community is being devastated by a double pandemic. Not only are blacks dying at an alarmingly disproportionate rate from COVID-19, but for decades they have suffered from the pandemic of injustice and systemic and structural racism.

The disparities in health care, employment, housing, and yes, treatment by law enforcement, comprise a plague that America must address. It has been said that “we were all human until race disconnected us, religion separated us, politics divided us, and wealth classified us.”

The Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter, Director of Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries, said, “the COVID-19 pandemic, including the disproportionate amount of deaths of people of color, and the recent cases of racial injustice, have highlighted a lot of our nation's entrenched and systemic problems. Racial injustice, the lack of basic resources, as well as economic injustice, have woken people to the fact that communities of color have been even further marginalized in this time in our nation.”

Hunter adds, “What is needed are allies, not enemies; organizing, not passive inaction; systemic change, not the status quo; affirming, not discounting; and listening, not drowning out the voices of those long-silenced. People are angry, frustrated, sad, fearful and despairing. In Psalm 13, the psalmist asks, “How long, O Lord? ... How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?” To solve these challenging problems requires an intercultural community of many races and genders to stand up for justice and provide inspiring and accountable governance and leadership.”

In this time of national discord and unrest, the office of Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries has developed resources for you to use during your worship service. It is our intent that these resources will speak to the hurt, anxiety and even the lament you may be experiencing during this time of unrest in our nation. The resources are found below:

**[A Prayer in a Time of Anger, Unrest, and Injustice](#)**

**[A Hymn by Slats Toole](#)**

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/resources-for-such-a-time-as-this/>

*Photo credit: The Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter is director of Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries. (Photo by Rich Copley)*



## INTERFAITH COALITION SEEKS CAST VOLUNTEERS

*CAST serves at the Arch of Healing and Reconciliation behind the downtown Bellingham Library*



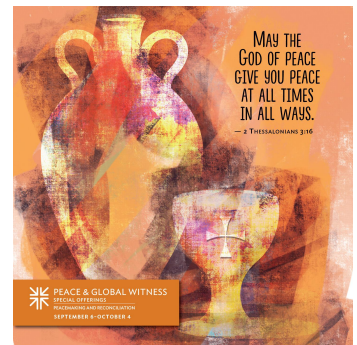
Can You Help? Interfaith Coalition needs volunteers for their CAST (Coffee and Sandwiches Together) program to give out food and drinks in downtown Bellingham to our hungry neighbors once a month. Shifts are 1.5 – 2 hours and are outside. Work includes transporting items from the prep kitchen to the serving site and/or serving to guests. Must haves: Ability to lift 20 lbs, current Food Handler's Permit (we will cover the cost of the test if you need to take it), face mask, and gloves. Interested? Fill out a Volunteer Application at [interfaith-coalition.org](https://interfaith-coalition.org)!

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## SPECIAL OFFERING: PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

*Ray Dellecker*

St. James participates in four special offerings during the year. The third one for 2020, the Peace & Global Witness Offering, will be taken on Sunday, Sept 20. Your Mission and Social Action committee ask that you please consider contributing to this worthy cause to help us locally and globally address the anxiety and discord that are so prevalent today. A total of 25% of the funds we collect will be used **here in our community toward peace-promoting efforts**; 25% will be provided to Presbytery for regional causes, and 50% will go to PCUSA's Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. You can contribute to this offering by sending your check to the church on or before Sept 20 with **Peace & Global Witness** in the memo line, or by using the green GIVING button on the St. James website and selecting Peace & Global Witness in the pull-down menu. Thank you for your consideration. <https://saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving>



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## IN REMEMBRANCE...

We were sad to read in the Bellingham Herald of the death of Tony Richter. Tony and Nancy were members of St. James for several years and left to move to Oregon in 2011. They were both active in church government and much loved members of the Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings. If you would like to send a card to Nancy, here is the address:

1199 N. Terry Space 340  
Eugene, OR 97402



## ST. JAMES STAFF IS AT YOUR SERVICE

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas, [pastor@saintjamespres.org](mailto:pastor@saintjamespres.org)  
Children & Family Director: Tracy Caruso, [tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org)  
Accompanist: Luke Arnold  
Treasurer: Marina McLeod, [stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com](mailto:stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com)  
Administrative Assistant: Shannon Laws, [office@saintjamespres.org](mailto:office@saintjamespres.org)  
Teachers: Claire Alarid, Lucy Sieczka



## 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

### Worship Schedule- Join us for streaming service

10:30 a.m. Worship is a LIVE Service Stream from our websites:

<https://saintjamespres.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/>

Office Hours for September:

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

September							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2	3	4	5	6. Read a Book Day
							7. Labor Day
							11. Day of Service & Remembrance
							13. National Grandparents Day
							21. International Day of Peace
							22. First Day of Fall
							29. National Coffee Day
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB IN SEPTEMBER

St. James Book Club is currently reading *The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story*, by Hyeonseo Lee. It is an extraordinary insight into life under one of the world's most ruthless and secretive dictatorships - and the story of one woman's terrifying struggle to avoid capture/repatriation and guide her family to freedom.

We will be meeting Monday evening on September 21st @ 7:00. Email [tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org) for the Zoom link.

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

9/6	Margaret McVie	🎂
9/6	John Sibold	🎂
9/7	Peter and Susan Burkland	💕
9/8	John Harris	🎂
9/11	Bill and Katy Read	💕
9/12	Gracelyn Dobson (Gracie)	🎂
9/13	Aaron and Tracy Caruso	💕
9/14	Robb and Cheryl McGregor	💕
9/17	Dave Nelson	🎂
9/17	Brian Johnson	🎂
9/18	Ann Lary	🎂
9/19	David Anderson	🎂
9/21	Asher Thomas	🎂
9/23	Faye Hill	🎂
9/26	Marcus Baker	🎂
9/30	Phyllis Jones	🎂



### Deadlines for church publications

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday, 2:00pm

Weekly email: Thursday, 2:00pm

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

### ST. JAMES CALENDAR

Please contact your Committee Chairperson or Group Coordinator to find out more about current offerings and times. Gathering room and time may shift when Whatcom County enters Phase 3.

### → PROGRAMS SHARING OUR FACILITY

**AA Fairhaven Group**  
**AA Men's Book Study Group**  
**AA SOS Men's Group**  
**Bellingham Com. Chorus**  
**Bellingham Ukulele Group**  
**Boy Scouts Troop 7**  
**Happy Hour Al-Anon**  
**Overeaters Anonymous**  
**St. James Fitness**  
**Linda's Tai Chi**  
**WA Gender Alliance**  
**Weavers Guild**  
**Yoga**  
**You Are Not Alone (YANA)**

**Bayside Co-op Preschool**  
**Hawthorne Learning Solutions**  
**Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County**



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