

the Pulse

March 2018

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The Journey to the Cross

As we enter the month of March, we look out ahead at the coming weeks and our movement through the church's liturgical year with anticipation that by the end of the month, we will be at the foot of the cross. We start the month in the midst of the season of Lent and by the end, we will find ourselves in the darkness of Holy Saturday, the day of Christ's absence. We move from stories of Jesus' growing ministry and the anticipation that the world might be set to rights by his powerful work among us and end in sadness. March marks the final steps on the journey to the cross.

It is important for us to recognize the season of Lent as a time to reckon with the violence of the world, poverty that confronts us daily throughout our city, destruction and oppression that rage through our country. While we trust in the "hallelujah" and hope of Easter, in this month, we are confronted more fully with the "how long" of lament and suffering.

I find it strangely inspiring that we, as a church community, can commit to engaging the truth of lament and not shy away from it. We certainly trust in the hope of Christ's resurrection power, but also embrace the truth that things are not as they should be. Rather than shy away, we turn more fully into the problems, saying that while we wait in the tension of this broken world, we will not back down. We will engage. We will prepare. We will stand up for our kin and neighbors in this city and do our part to care — think about Family Promise! We will not turn our back on those who the world turns from — we will dive in and make space for the ones who stand on the verge of homelessness.

My hope is that your Lenten practice and our worship together as a church will give you space to reflect on how you might participate in the places of the world's deepest need, in our own backyard. Perhaps it's serving at the Southside Community Meal or getting behind the amazing work of the Interfaith Coalition at their Annual Auction or coming humbly before the congregation and choosing to "belong" more fully through our *Communitas* course.

At the heart of this season is an invitation to turn more fully into the suffering of the world, the longing for healing that we all know deeply. As people of hope, we chose to look the darkness straight on and stand defiantly in the knowledge that God is good and God is working to redeem even the bleakest of circumstances. We at St. James will stand with the brokenhearted, journey all the way to the cross, and weep as we watch our Savior die once more.

And yet...we will anticipate, we will believe, we will live into the beautiful truth that the story does not end there. The journey is far from over, time has not run out.

It is an honor to stand beside you in this season, awaiting the glorious truth of Christ's resurrection.

Grace and peace to you,

Pastor Seth



Join Us

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Schedule for Holy Week, March 25 - April 1

Palm Sunday - Sunday, March 25
Worship in the Sanctuary @ 10:30 am
receiving new members
Vespers in the Sanctuary @ 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday - Thursday, March 29
Seder Meal in the Fellowship Hall @ 6:00 pm

Good Friday - Friday, March 30
Vespers in the Sanctuary @ 7:00 pm

EASTER - SUNDAY, APRIL 1
Easter Sunrise Service at Fairhaven Park @ 7:00 am

Coffee Time @ 9:00 am
(Please note, no breakfast served in the Fellowship Hall this year.)

Easter Worship in the Sanctuary @ 10:30 am
Coffee Fellowship after service

Easter Egg hunt on the front lawn!

MARCH 2018

FAMILY PROMISE

St. James will be supporting our neighbor, host church Sacred Heart, as they welcome up to 15 guests for a week stay in their church. The first week is April 15, Sunday to Sunday. Great support and training will be provided.

- PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO:
- SET-UP
- WELCOME GUESTS
- PREPARE DINNER
- SERVE DINNER
- SATURDAY BREAKFAST
- BAKE COOKIES
- EVENING HOST 6pm-9pm
- OVERNIGHT HOST 9pm-6am
- TAKE DOWN /PACK-UP
- LAUNDRY (up to 15 sheets & cases)

Please sign-up on the clipboard in the Horizon Room or contact Gretchen Pfueller at 360-734-3953 for more information or questions.

INTERFAITH COALITION HOPE AUCTION

Hope is on the Way! Interfaith Coalition's Hope Auction happens on **Saturday, March 24**, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Please join us as we continue in our work of ensuring that all children have a safe, warm place to call home. You can help in these ways:

- [Donate an Auction Item](#) - Do you have a service you offer, your own artwork, gift certificate, tickets to popular sporting events, vacation home getaway, ...let your imagination soar and get in touch with us!
- [Buy tickets](#). Tickets are \$65 each, including dinner. Join your friends and members of your congregation for lively bidding and fellowship. To purchase tickets or make a donation, please contact us at 360-734-3983, or through our website: <https://www.interfaith-coalition.org/>

We make a difference in the lives of homeless children and their families, and with your support, we will be serving additional families through our new program, Family Promise.

FROM THE ST. JAMES WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

All women are invited to a bible study, Tuesday, March 27, at 10:30 a.m., followed by a potluck salad luncheon at noon. Lesson Seven from The Horizon's Cloud of Witnesses study book is titled, "In Community with the Hope of the Future". The lesson is based on Hebrews 11:1-3; 3:1-19; Psalm 95; Hebrews 4:1-11; and 6:9-12. This month's speaker is from the Bellingham Food Bank. Bring a salad to share.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASS

The Sunday Morning 9:00 am class will begin a study of *The Book of Matthew* this coming Sunday and will continue until Pentecost. Study books will be available in the class. If you need child care, please call: Tracy Caruso (tracye.caruso@gmail.com) or Faye Hill (fayeannhill@yahoo.com) Hope to see you there!

PULSE



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (February 14— April 1), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. **In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.**

One Great Hour of Sharing, makes a difference in the world.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)

- + Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees
- + Receives 32% of funds raised

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

- + Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed
- + Receives 36% of funds raised

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)

- + Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues
- + Receives 32% of funds raised

Thank you for promoting and supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, an Offering that responds directly to the needs God has called us to fulfill in Isaiah 58. Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports programs in over 100 countries.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Ways to give:

- Through your congregation
- Donate by credit card online at presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs
- Text OGHS 20222 to give \$10

presbyterianmission.org/oghs

March Birthdays

- 3 Jody DeWilde
- 5 Karen Jackson
- 8 Martha Speer
- 10 Sophie Burkland
- 11 Stacy Thomas
- 13 Richard Green
- 14 Virginia Green
- 17 Liam DeWilde
- 18 Madeleine Smith
- 21 Marion Dobbie
- 21 Randy Mohr
- 21 Pam Gibson
- 24 Zach Melrose
- 27 Donna Lane
- 28 Mike Smith
- 28 Mary Robinson-Mohr
- 28 Margaret Humble

Children's Ministry - Godly Play

- March 11: The Faces of Easter II and III
- March 18: The Faces of Easter IV and V
- March 25: The Faces of Easter VI and VII
- April 1: Easter! Easter Eggs
- April 8: Easter!



Easter egg hunt following Easter worship

March Anniversaries

- 25 Peter and Mary van der Veen

**Southside Community Meal
Volunteer today!
Contact Gretchen at
gmpfueller@gmail.com**

**SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY MEAL
SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 5-6:30
AT OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN**

**St. James will host a
Corned Beef and
Cabbage Dinner for
our neighborhood**

**Please volunteer to
help Gretchen:
gmpfueller@gmail.com**

PULSE

Highlights from the 11 February 2018 Session Meeting

Session members and assigned committees:

Class of 2018

Mark Beaty	Clerk of Session
Tim Crandall	Nominating
Jill Hoyt	Worship and Music
Gretchen Pfueller	Mission Social Action

Class of 2019

Laurie Anderson	Membership
Dick Carr	Finance
Jeanne Uhles	Building and Grounds

Class of 2020

Tracy Caruso	Christian Faith Formation
Faye Hill	Personnel

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.”

-1 Peter 1:3-4b

From the Treasurer’s report, pledges are on track for the year and general offerings are ahead of projection. The sound system, now under the Worship Committee, is slated for improvements over the next few months. Mark Beaty, Clerk of Session

JANUARY 2018 FINANCIAL STATUS

	January	Current Budget	Year to Date	Annual Budget
INCOME	\$26,214.	\$23,640.	\$26,214.	\$222,277.
EXPENSE	\$15,853.	\$17,043.	\$15,853.	\$222,277.

Note: The income for January is higher as several persons have paid in advance for 2018.

ST. JAMES CAN NOW ACCEPT ONLINE DONATIONS!

Using our new system you can:

- give from your bank account or using a credit card
- 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

All of these options are available online at: <https://saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving>

You can also set up a credit card or bank account for instant giving via text message. To receive a link for set-up, text any amount to

Please talk to Seth or our treasurer Marina if you have questions or concerns. These are *additional options*. Please note that we are still happy to process your in-person or by-mail donations as well. Thank you for your patience and your questions as we launch this new opportunity. Treasurer's email address for questions: stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com

MARCH CALENDAR 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. Psalm 116:1-2</p>				<p>1 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Congrega- tional Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>2 4pm Cross-fit</p>	<p>3 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group</p>
<p>4 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/ Communion 11:30am Communitas Presbyteros 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>5 9am Personnel 10am Grief Support Group 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>6 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Building and Grounds 6pm Finance 7pm Community Chorus Rehearsal 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance</p>	<p>7 4pm Mission and Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA 7pm Christian Faith Formation</p>	<p>8 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>9 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit</p>	<p>10 9am Church Work Party 10am OA</p>
<p>11 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Session BYOL 6:15pm AA</p>	<p>12 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>13 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 7pm Community Chorus Rehearsal 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance</p>	<p>14 6pm SOS Men's AA</p>	<p>15 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>16 PULSE ITEMS DUE 4pm Cross-fit</p>	<p>17 St. Patrick's Day 9:30am Weavers Guild 10am OA</p>
<p>18 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at First Christian 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>19 10am Grief Support Group 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6pm Boy Scout's Court of Honor 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>20 10:15am Yoga 12pm Pastor's Luncheon 5:30pm AI Anon 7pm Community Chorus Rehearsal 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance</p>	<p>21 6pm SOS Men's AA</p>	<p>22 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>23 4pm Cross-fit</p>	<p>24 10am OA 12pm Music Teachers Assoc</p>
<p>25 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7pm Lenten Vespers Service 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>26 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6pm Boy Scouts Planning Mtg 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>27 10:15am Yoga 10:30am Women's Bible Study 12pm Women's Potluck 5:30pm AI Anon 7pm Community Chorus Rehearsal 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance</p>	<p>28 6pm SOS Men's AA</p>	<p>29 Maundy Thursday 6pm Seder Meal</p>	<p>30 Good Friday 7pm Vespers Service</p>	<p>31 10am OA</p>
				<p>Bayside Co-op Preschool Schedule: 360-360-733-3972</p> <p>Hawthorne Learning Solutions Schedule: contact hlearningsolutions@gmail.com</p>		



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www.saintjamespres.org
office@saintjamespres.org
360-733-1325

Office Hours: Tue-Fri, 9am-2pm

St. James Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas
Children's Ministry: Tracy Caruso, Coordinator
Teachers: Erika Singh-Cundy, Sophie Rose Kendrick,
Lucy Sieczka
Administrative Secretary: Natasha Orme
Treasurer: Marina McLeod
Music Director: Carolyn Mullen
Pianist/Accompanist: Julian Fajardo

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Children's Time

