



Where Love Abides

"In our home, let love abide and bless all those, who step inside."

My parents gave Stacy and I a wall hanging with this welcoming message, when we moved into our home. They have this same placard posted in the entryway of their home, a reminder to all who enter that they are welcomed and of their intentions as hosts. To all who enter, we intend it to reflect hospitality, welcome, safety, and peace.

What does it look like for love to abide among us, to make a home with us?

In this season of Eastertide, we are looking at what it means to live in the aftermath of the resurrection. We live in the days, weeks, and months that flow out of an event where love prevailed and set the world on a new trajectory. Our challenge, in this season, is to find ways to give that love flesh and bone, to not simply look back and talk about the story, but to actually put love into practice through how we live in the world.

The note at our entryway serves as a reminder, words that encourage a pattern of living. But is not enough to welcome love to live with us in intention alone. Those words, while rooted in a good place in our hearts, are mere words until they take the shape of practical action. If I say "Welcome" in my home and proceed to go about by ignoring my guests or being grumpy at my family,

have I let love come home to abide with me? Not really.

Love acts. Love does. Love looks at the problems of the world, the things that divide us, that alienate and diminish our humanity, and takes an active role. In the church, we talk about "bearing witness" to God's grace and work in the world. This "bearing witness" doesn't stop with simply naming the issue (that's a good first step). "Bearing witness" takes the second step, though, moving out into the world in action. To "bear witness" to love is to see the opportunity to care for someone's need and then actually getting right up close to it and helping with our hands, feet, presence, and compassion.

Here's a challenge for each of us as we enter the month of May and look forward to summer: Can you find a way to bring love more actively into your home?

I wonder, have there been folks you've been wanting to invite over for a meal, but haven't done so yet? Maybe that would be an active way to share love with them, to let them know they matter and you seek to be in community with them.

Or have you noticed a neighbor who could use an extra hand around their home? What would it be like to walk over sometime and offer that kind of active loving care?

And what does it look like for love to abide among us here at St. James, as we gather and spend time together? Perhaps you are sensing an opportunity to take a more active role around here, volunteering on a Sunday morning or helping out around the grounds throughout the week or stepping in to visit people who are sick or lonely. These are all ways for love to become active in you, for you to take the second step, moving past intention to an attitude of action.

Don't worry, you're not alone in this. We're learning and growing together. And be assured, as 1 John 3:16-17 reminds us, "God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world."

God's love lives in us, through Christ, so that we can boldly love others. This is where love abides.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Seth



**YOU ARE INVITED TO LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP
SUNDAY MAY 6**

Let's Work Together to
**Bring Health & Education to HIV+ orphaned
babies in Uganda**

Uganda has 2.5 million orphans and about half are afflicted with HIV.

Uganda has 2.5 million orphans and about half are afflicted with HIV. Those who care for these vulnerable children love them dearly but lack the basic necessities to keep them healthy. Until recently, Sangaalo Baby Cottage lacked clean water but a recently installed bore hole and solar pump have addressed that need. Screens now protect kids from malaria carrying mosquitoes and shutters protect them from monsoon rains. But there is much more to be done.

Safe and reliable electricity and indoor plumbing will keep these vulnerable infants healthy.

Safe and reliable electricity will eliminate kerosene lamps - a constant source of danger and risk of a catastrophe. Electricity will also bring refrigeration which means better food storage and less food borne illness. refrigeration also means HIV medicines can maintain their effectiveness, keeping the kids free of AIDS. Indoor sanitation will also reduce the spread of disease that so frequently challenge these little vulnerable bodies.

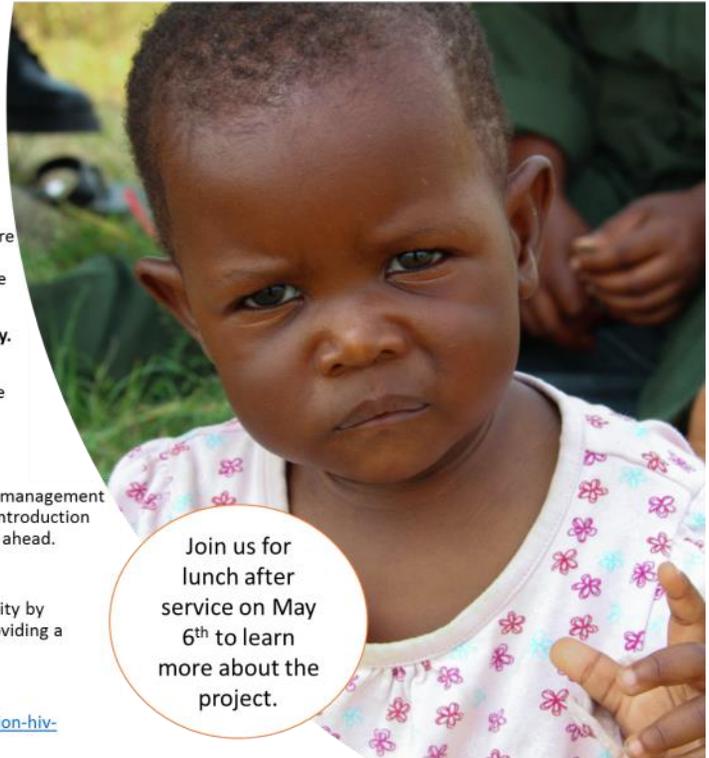
Most importantly, electricity also means the introduction of tele-medicine and ongoing HIV management monitoring, permitting intervention before a child may progress to AIDS. It also means the introduction of tele-education at the neighboring school so children can look forward to a productive life ahead.

Children can thrive, not just survive.

By encompassing the orphanage, the school house and the church, we aim to lift a community by keeping children in school longer and with better lesson plans. Keeping kids healthy and providing a quality education will mean they can look forward to a long and productive life ahead.

How you can help.

Pledge and follow our progress online at <https://www.caringcrowd.org/bring-health-education-hiv-orphaned-babies-uganda> and your donation will be 100% matched up to \$250.



Join us for
lunch after
service on May
6th to learn
more about the
project.

Join us for a day dedicated to dining out for our community!

**DINE OUT FOR MAPLE ALLEY INN
MAY 1, 2018**

Up to 20% of sales will be donated to the Maple Alley Inn community meal program at the following locations:

- Ambo Ethiopian Cuisine
- Aslan Brewing Co.
- Avenue Bread (Lynden)
- Bellingham Bar and Grill
- Black Drop Coffeehouse
- Black Sheep
- Boundary Bay Brewery & Bistro
- Brandywine Kicthen
- Café Akroteri
- Casa Que Pasa
- Ciao Thyme
- Community Food Co-op Bakery Café
- D'Anna's Café Italiano
- The Daisy Café
- Diamond Jim's Grill
- Fat Pie Pizza

- Five Columns Restaurant
- Goat Mountain Pizza
- Hilltop Restaurant
- Homeskillet
- India Grill Restaurant
- Keenan's At The Pier
- Kulshan Brewing Company (James)
- Kulshan Brewing Company (K2)
- La Fiamma Wood Fire Pizza
- Leaf & Ladle
- Mallard Ice Cream & Café
- Mambo Italiano Café
- Marlin's Café
- Mykonos
- Old Town Café
- Old World Deli

- On Rice Thai Cuisine (Barkley)
- On Rice Thai Cuisine (Fairhaven)
- On Rice Thai Cuisine (Samish Way)
- Pepper Sisters
- Pure Bliss Desserts
- Rock & Rye Oyster House
- Rocket Donuts (Downtown)
- Rocket Donuts (Fairhaven)
- Sirena Gelato
- Toakom Asian Bistro
- Thai House
- The Filling Station
- Wander Brewing
- Woods Coffee (select locations)
- Zane Burger



Family Promise

April 2 was opening day, and the atmosphere sparked with the electricity of anticipation: today we would welcome our first families! Two years of hope and hard work, planning and building, had gone into today's launch of Family Promise in Whatcom County.

Alas, the electricity was dampened by the rain and a phone call that informed Interfaith that the first family's arrival would be delayed. So Case Manager, Gina Hanna, and Director, Sarah Lane, continued to tidy up and troubleshoot, while Church of the Assumption volunteers remained patient--and probably ate a lot of extra dinner.

But by day 3, we were suddenly full! Three families, including 2 infants, 3 toddlers, 2 elementary students, 1 middle-schooler, and 5 parents filled our day center and our first host congregation. We had instant community, and much celebration. All of your hard work has paid off! Families are being served well, serving each other and serving us, as we all engage in community together.

Our first three hosts/support congregations, Church of the Assumption, Christ the Servant Lutheran/Bellingham Friends, and Sacred Heart/St. James Presbyterian/Our Saviour's Lutheran, have gone above and beyond, providing delicious and abundant meals, and activities from card-making to basketball to movie and popcorn nights. We have also just welcomed two new support congregations: United Methodist Church of Lynden and Unity Spiritual Center. We have spent time painting with children and planted a garden at First Christian Church. And most important, we have listened to the deep sigh of families settling in, relaxing and loving and growing. Thank you for your love and prayers—and good hard work!



Interfaith Coalition thanks St. James

Interfaith Coalition thanks St. James Presbyterian Church for your generosity to our 2018 Hope Auction. In addition to what those of you in attendance contributed through ticket or auction item purchase, your generous response through your many congregation gifts, including garden and coffee baskets, and ceramic planters helped us reach a record total auction amount of over \$200,000! Know that every day families and individuals in Whatcom County are lifted up and experience hope because of you. Thank you!



Lighthouse Mission's Light in the Night Gala & Auction

Saturday, May 19 at 5:00pm

Four Points by Sheraton

\$70 per person or \$500 for a table of 8

Visit www.auctria.com/auction/missiongala for tickets.

Look forward to a spectacular, heartfelt night with live entertainment, photo booth, raffle, silent and live auctions, and inspiring guest stories. You will also enjoy appetizers, a plated dinner, and dessert. All funds you help raise will support men, women, and children who are homeless in our community.



Sunday, May 13

May Birthdays

- 2 Jenny Sue LeSchander
- 3 Elizabeth Crandall
- 4 Aaron Caruso
- 6 Jim Hardin
- 14 Peter van der Veen
- 18 Bob Pace

May Anniversaries

- 13 Bruce and Marsha Lockhart

MARCH FINANCIAL STATUS

	March	Current Budget	Yr. to Date Budget	Annual Budget
Income	\$19,299	\$17,265	\$62,424	\$222,277
Expenses	\$21,348	\$20,187	\$57,110	\$222,277

Note: If you have not paid your Per Capita as yet, now is a good time to do it. We have paid 1/3 in March, a second 1/3 in April and the final 1/3 in May to the Presbytery.



Our church insurance policy was renewed in April. We will end up \$120 over budget for insurance for the year.

Dick Carr
Finance Chair

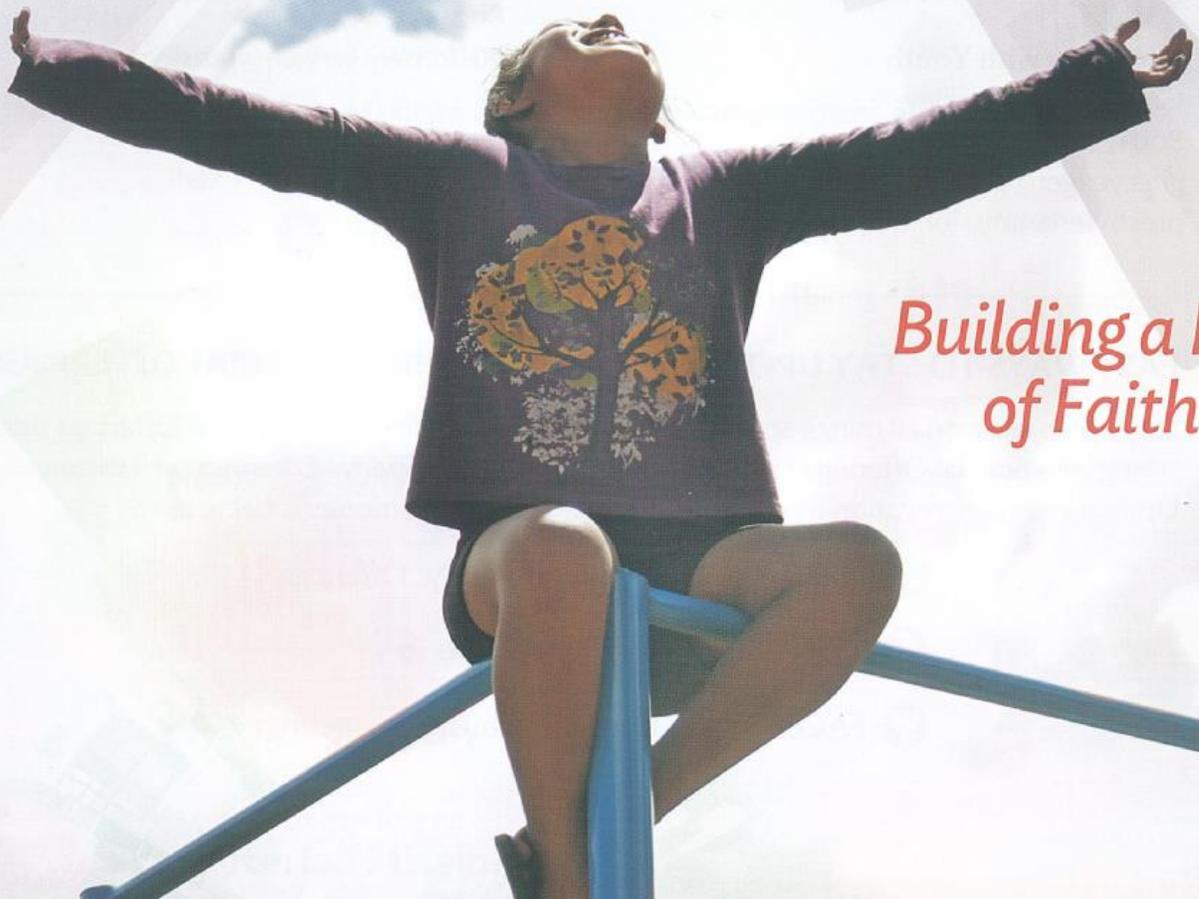


PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

God, from my youth
you have taught me.

— PSALM 71:17



*Building a Life
of Faith*

THE PENTECOST OFFERING HELPS OUR YOUTH BEGIN LIFE WITH A STRONG START—A SOLID FOUNDATION OF FAITH FORMED IN THE FIRST THIRD OF LIFE, FROM CHILDHOOD THROUGH YOUNG ADULTHOOD.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person’s life. By giving to the Pentecost Offering, your congregation participates in helping our children, youth, and young adults grow up to proclaim with the Psalmist, “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.”

The Offering will be taken on Pentecost Sunday, May 20. This year the 40% that remains with St. James for distribution will all go to Sangaalo Bay Cottage in Uganda, an orphanage for infants affected with HIV, “owned” by our member Carrie Cameron.

DEI Update Article for May 2018

Several members of the St. James Mission and Social Justice Committee have begun meeting to share ideas about how we might augment the church’s deep commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

We’re in fact-finding and study mode, considering ideas such as:

- Assessing how St James currently supports these efforts today - ie, Interfaith Coalition, Family Promise, Lighthouse Mission, Habitat for Humanity, PCUSA, bathroom remodel, etc.
- Learning from and leveraging what others are doing about racism - ex. “Talkin’ Race” workshops at WWU.
- Identifying our polarities (competing tensions) - such as balancing support of local, national and international DEI efforts.
- Making space to be surprised by what others care about (ex. recent Bellingham youth rally and march) and to be open to an outside voice.
- Giving voice to people’s experiences.

We’re seeking to expand our DEI workgroup, so if you’d like to join us, please contact Carol Dellecker at chdellecker@gmail.com or Gretchen Pfueller at gmpfueller@gmail.com. Our next DEI meeting is at 3:00 pm, Wednesday, May 9th in the Lounge.

MAY CALENDAR 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Community Chorus 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	2 4pm Mission and Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA 7pm Christian Faith Formation	3 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	4 4pm Cross-fit	5 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
6 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Luncheon. Carrie Cameron speaker 3pm Memorial for Sharon Schayes 7:15pm AA	7 10am Grief Support Group 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	8 10am Staff 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 6pm Finance 5:30pm Community Chorus 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	9 10am Worship 6pm SOS Men's AA	10 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	11 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit 6pm Church Work Party	12 10am OA
13 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA	14 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	15 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Community Chorus 7pm Session BYOL 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	16 <i>Pulse Due</i> 6pm SOS Men's AA	17 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	18 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at United Church of Ferndale	19 9:30am Weavers Guild 10am OA 6pm Music Teachers Assoc
20 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons 7:15pm AA	21 10am Grief Support Group 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	22 10:15am Yoga 10:30am Women's Bible Study 12pm Women's Salad Potluck 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Community Chorus 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	23 6pm SOS Men's AA	24 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA	25 3pm Membership 4pm Cross-fit	26 10am OA
27 9am Adult Church School 10am Special Worship hosted by Bellingham High 7:15pm AA	28 Memorial Day 10am Personnel 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6pm Boy Scout's planning mtg 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	29 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Community Chorus 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	30 6pm SOS Men's AA	31 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Bayside Co-op Preschool Schedule: 360-733-3972 Hawthorne Learning Solutions Schedule: hlearningsolutions@gmail.com </div>	





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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

