

# The Pulse

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2015

## Pentecost Is New Creation by The Rev. Jon Hauerwas

An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 117-119)

According to the Day of Pentecost story in Acts 2:1-13, God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower witnesses to the resurrection. Sounds from heaven, cosmic language, the rush of a mighty *ruach* (wind, spirit, breath) invaded the house in which the apostles gathered, and appeared to them as a burning fire. Tongues of fire touched their nerve centers. A power — the unseen power of God — moved among them and gripped them. The Holy Spirit is unseen, like the wind, which is why the Old Testament calls it *ruach YHWH*, “the wind, or breath, of God” (cf. John 3:8). The Spirit is the “unseenness of God” working among us.

According to Joel (2:28-29) the *ruach* is to open everybody to God’s future. People young and old will dream and will have visions of hope; they will be able to loose themselves from the way things are now, because God is establishing a whole new economy of creation. The Holy Spirit breaks us out of our preoccupation with ourselves and frees us to serve neighbors, loosens our grasp on possessions, and sets us to loving people. New creation is what Joel is talking about. Pentecost is new creation.

The book of Acts tells the story of the outcome of Pentecost’s new creation: people witness in word and in deed to the risen Christ. At the outset, the newborn church immediately tumbled out into the streets to witness to God’s mighty works in the languages of people all over the world. By the end of the story, a tiny, Spirit-filled community of faith that broke from its present order has spread across the continents with incredible power to bring new things into being. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible.

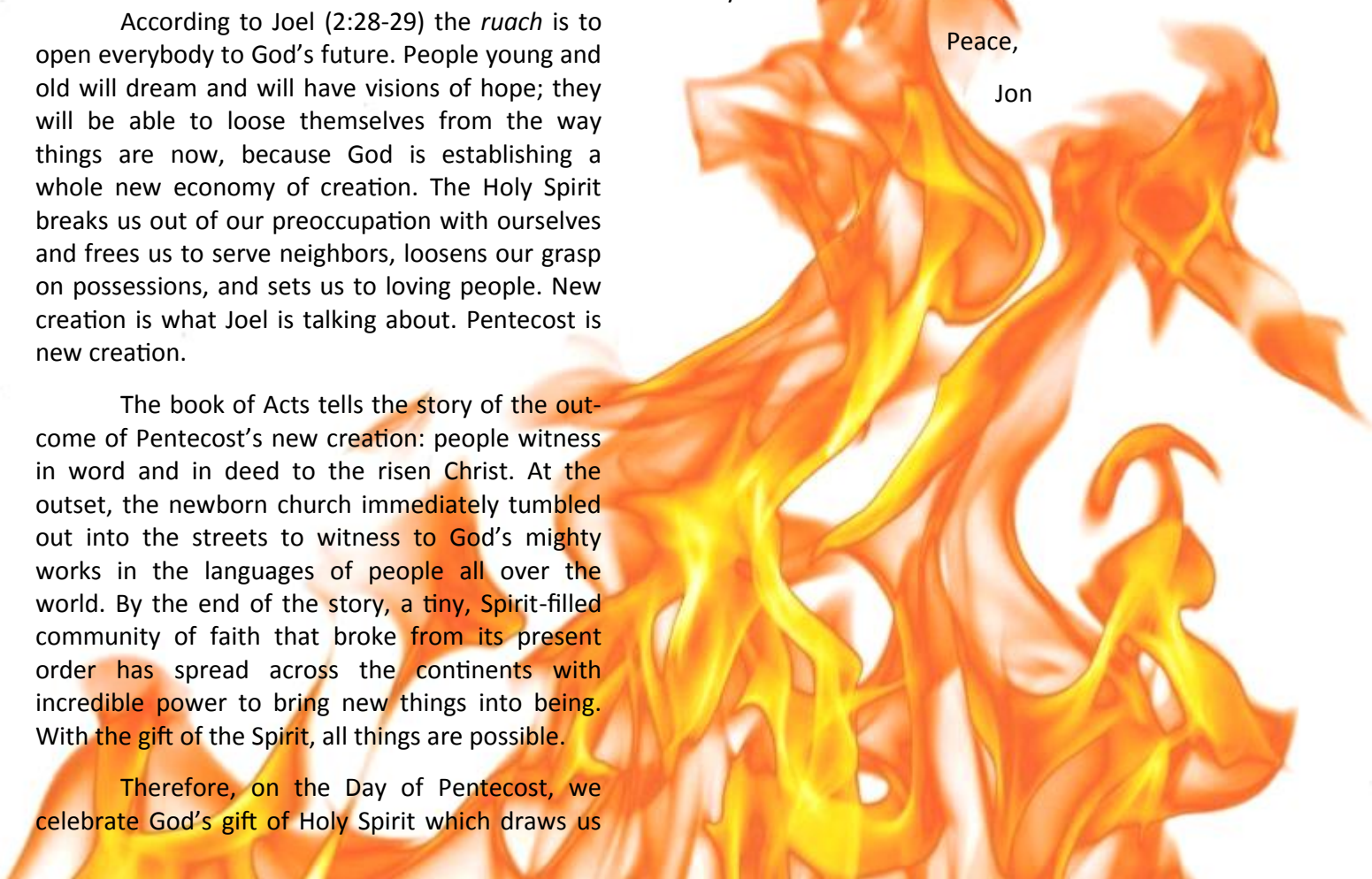
Therefore, on the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God’s gift of Holy Spirit which draws us

together as one people, helps us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim, in word and in deed, God’s plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ (Ephesians 1:10).

Without the gift of the Spirit, Christ’s church dries up and withers away, and we are left with only our broken selves. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible. A spirit-filled community of faith opens eyes to needs in the world and sees its mission as God’s new people. The Day of Pentecost is the climax of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, celebrating as it does the gift of the Spirit to the body of Christ — the church.

Peace,

Jon



## PULSE

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### **MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> PENTECOST SUNDAY OFFERING FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the Presbyterian Church (USA) encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. Programs include: Young Adult Volunteers, Ministries for Youth, and Children-at-Risk.

Kara and Jon Hauerwas were Young Adult Volunteers the same year in Europe. So we know that's a good program. St. James has used the local share of the funds to support groups, such as the Home Port Learning Center in Bellingham; Atfaluna School for the Deaf in Gaza; Montaña de Luz in Honduras. We look forward to this church wide giving opportunity.

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### **MAY FOOD BANK CHALLENGE EVERY SUNDAY Food4Tots plus!**

In addition to money, we can increase our giving to at-risk children and support the local food bank. The food bank needs food for babies and toddlers. They serve about 250 babies each month.

Goal: 1000 food items for infants and toddlers!

Can we do it? That's just 5-6 pouches, jars or boxes each. Won't it be interesting to see what's in the baby food aisle in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We won't just be helping children, but for some of us it will be almost an anthropological expedition traveling down the that food aisle.

Put your gifts in the grocery cart by the stairway and we'll give you a count of our progress toward our goal each Sunday in May. Remember let's fill the cart for infants and toddlers!

Let's post our baby pictures in the Horizon room to help us remember to bring more food. Please put your picture (or copy of a picture – not the actual picture) in the bulletin board space provided, with your name below the picture. Let's exceed our goal!

Mission and Social Action. Questions? Ask Carla 360-961-2320

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### **CELEBRATE THE EARTH CONCERT IS FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015 AT 7:30 PM**

This concert open to everyone and features musician, singer, songwriter, Dana Lyons. The concert is especially for you, friends and family. Dana Lyons is best known for his dynamic performances and outrageous hit songs *Cows with Guns*, *RV* and *Ride the Lawn*.

Bringing together a mix of comedy, ballads and love songs, Dana offers songs for the environment and world peace. His sharp wit and beautiful voice have him performing at concert halls, festivals, conventions, fundraisers and universities across the US and around the world.

Dana performs at festivals ranging from Farm Aid with Willie Nelson and Neil Young to the Harley Davidson Festival in Sturgis, South Dakota where he shared the stage with Lynyrd Skynyrd, Steppenwolf, Nazareth and Blue Oyster Cult.

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Two of Dana's songs have been made into award-winning illustrated books: *Cows with Guns*, published by Penguin (winner of the Bullit Prize), and *The Tree*, published by Illumination Arts and endorsed by Dr. Jane Goodall, has forewords by Pete Seeger and Julia Butterfly Hill and has won numerous awards.

Dana was born in Kingston, New York. He graduated from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. He lives in a nice garage in Bellingham, Washington. His astrological sign is Taurus.

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**GO SOLAR BELLINGHAM** A workshop will be held on Thursday, May 14 at 5:30pm at Re Sources, 2309 Meridian Street, Bellingham, 360-733-8307. Re Sources promotes sustainable communities and protects the health of northwestern Washington people and ecosystems through application of science, education, advocacy and action. Those interested may sign up at [www.GoSolarBellingham.com](http://www.GoSolarBellingham.com)

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## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS 2015

### Discussed:

The first line of the Mission statement, which says, "Saint James Presbyterian Church is a beacon on the hill where people respond to opportunities God sets before us." was considered. The statement suggests that our church is a place where people look up to the church as a place showing direction (like a lighthouse does for boats). It suggests that God is always setting new opportunities before us to do worthwhile acts. Past and current opportunities were reviewed and some new possibilities were lifted up for the 2015-2020 Action Plan.

### Reported:

- Electricity use is higher than previous years. People need to turn them off when they leave the rooms.
- Building and Grounds priority is making the building handicapped accessible. They recommended that the Session consider not installing solar panels at this time. It was suggested that we encourage members to get solar panels on their homes. It was suggested that we work with Habitat for Humanity and Interfaith Coalition to install solar panels on new low-income families' houses. A hard copy of the Solar Panel Task Force Report is being made available in the church library.
- Building insurance has been taken out with Charity First.
- Membership classes are scheduled.
- Progressive Christian Voices is conducting a book drive at WWU for students around the world.
- A no tolerance policy on sexual abuse or harassment has been written for the Personnel Policies and will be recommended next month.
- Pentecost will be celebrated on May 24, 2015 with people speaking a passage from the Book of Acts in different languages simultaneously.

### Decided:

We will hold a congregational meeting on April 19, 2015 to nominate Gary Culbertson a ruling elder in the vacant position.

We will have a Celebration of the Earth Concert on May 1, 2014 at 7:30pm featuring music by Dana Lyons.

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## PULSE

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### NEW LIFE

In the spirit of Lent and Easter we recently said “farewell” to something in order to welcome new life on our church grounds. Two trees, in particular, became problematic. The first was the large pin oak which has been greeting participants at the front door for decades. The root system on this tree was tearing up the sidewalk and, if left checked, would soon break a part our reader board. During the fall, it drops debris onto the shingles and into the gutters while its branches shade the roof. Each of these factors encourages the growth of moss and mold which cause rot and shorten the life span of our investment there. In the back of the church, a plum tree was also removed. It was diseased in the trunk at the same time that it was growing into the power lines. Now that this project is completed, we will plant at least one new tree on church property.

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### WOMEN OF ST. JAMES – COME TO OUR BIRTHDAY OFFERING CELEBRATIONS!

Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 12pm when we will be having our  
monthly Pot Luck Salad Luncheon and for dessert....birthday cake!

Bible Study meets at 10:30am – 9<sup>th</sup> lesson.

This will be our last lesson for this session. In September we will be starting with the  
2015-2016 PW/Horizons Bible Study – *Come to the Waters*.



### 2015 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIRTHDAY OFFERING

Presbyterian women have a long tradition of caring for others and helping those in need. Ever since Hallie Paxson Winsborough, in 1922, challenged each member of the Woman’s Auxiliary of the PCUS to give a penny for each year of her life as a “birthday gift” for Miss Dowd’s School for Girls in Japan, Presbyterian Women’s Birthday Offering has helped fund mission projects that improve the lives of women and children around the world.

The 2015 Birthday offering will provide support to the Community of St. Therese of Lisieux located in Memphis, Tennessee and the Bethesda Christian Community Center located in Barranquilla, Columbia. The community of St. Therese of Lisieux ministers to women caught up in circle of prostitution, addiction, and trafficking. The Bethesda Christian Community reaches out to women displaced and abused in the violence riddled neighborhood of El Poor Fin in Barranquilla.

It is our tradition at St. James to hold the Birthday Offering on Mother’s Day, this year May 10. Please honor your birthday or the birthday of a special woman in your life by giving to the Birthday Offering.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

55 percent of PC(USA) congregations have 100 or fewer members, and the median size congregation has 87 members.

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## THANK YOU FROM INTERFAITH COALITION

Dear Friends at St. James Presbyterian Church,

Your special congregational gifts of gardening baskets helped make this year's Interfaith Hope Auction a success! The proceeds from the auction help us together provide homes, warmth and hope for our vulnerable neighbors.

The generosity of your gifts are just one way your congregation supports the work of Interfaith Coalition. You have many in your congregation who also donate auction items and attend the benefit. Many are faithful in their annual donations of warm coats and gifts to families at Christmas, others volunteer at our severe weather shelters, and your congregation's financial support is essential.

Interfaith Coalition is a community of many faiths working together to eliminate homelessness and poverty in Whatcom County. We do it through our

member congregations, collaborating to fill the gaps in human services and to meet housing and other needs of our marginalized neighbors. The challenge is immense, but working together, building on our respective faiths and finding common ground in caring for those who need our help, we accomplish great things.

Thank you for being our partner in caring and doing. We are filled with gratitude for your congregation as a whole, and for the individual members who share in this hopeful work.

### PROGRAM COORDINATOR POSITION AT INTERFAITH COALITION

Would you like to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need? Do you have a passion for social justice and basic human needs? Do you enjoy working with a variety of faith traditions towards a common goal of service to others? Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County has a special opportunity for the right person: Program Coordinator. Put your faith into action on a daily basis to address the needs of marginalized people in our community. Work with our member congregations and dedicated volunteers through established programs, like our winter coat drive, severe weather shelters, and housing program for homeless families. If meaningful, values-based work is important to you, please apply by emailing a resume and cover letter to us [info@interfaith-coalition.org](mailto:info@interfaith-coalition.org). For a complete job description and desired qualifications, please go to Interfaith Coalition's website at: [interfaith-coalition.org](http://interfaith-coalition.org).

Laura Harker, Executive Director, Interfaith Coalition  
phone: 734-3983, [laura@interfaith-coalition.org](mailto:laura@interfaith-coalition.org)



### HE/SHE SAID

"If you don't have an educated congregation, they won't understand what you're peaching to them about!" BRIAN BLOUNT, president of Union Presbyterian Seminary, leading worship for Christian educators gathered in Baltimore for the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators February.

## PULSE

### DRY FUTURE

There is an 80 percent chance that later in this century a megadrought will plague the American Southwest for decades, according to a study released by researchers at NASA and at Columbia and Cornell universities. The drought will be caused by reduced precipitation and changes in evaporation rates. The researchers say other factors, such as the El Nino weather pattern, could interrupt long periods of severe drought. The researchers say there is time to reduce the factors contributing to climate change. *Christian Century*

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

|    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 2  | Jenny Sue LeSchander |
| 3  | Elizabeth Crandall   |
| 4  | Aaron Caruso         |
| 6  | Jim Hardin           |
| 11 | Helen Oliver-Leen    |
| 14 | Peter van der Veen   |
| 18 | Bob Pace             |
| 29 | Dorothy Brown        |

**“When my spirit is nourished, I glimpse God’s economy of abundance.”**

-Sue Clemmer Steiner, spiritual director and retired Mennonite pastor in Waterloo, Ontario

### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

|    |                           |
|----|---------------------------|
| 12 | Dave and Twyla Bader      |
| 13 | Bruce and Marsha Lockhart |
| 28 | Jon and Kara Hauerwas     |

### SUMMER SCHEDULE FOR THE 9am ADULT CLASS

The 9am Bible Study class will change their meeting time to 9:30am for the summer, beginning on May 31st and concluding on September 7th. During the summer we will read and discuss the sermon scriptures for the day. Come and join us this summer in the church lounge at 9:30am.

We have coffee, goodies and a warm welcome waiting for you!  
There are no lessons to read before class! We love new faces!



### PENTECOST IS MAY 24, 2015!



Please wear red to worship on Pentecost Sunday. Our flowers will also be red, and we will have red flames that you can affix to your clothing that day. In the spirit of Acts 2, which is our primary scripture for the day, we will be hearing from a variety of voices in our congregation. During the second reading, which I will offer in English, you will hear and see a number of other languages, as well. Simultaneously, Ann Lary will be presenting the text to us in American Sign Language. Nooty Kennedy will be speaking Thai. Candy Ellis will offer an Iroquois translation. Rook Van Halm will read the scripture in Dutch. Peter van der Veen will provide a regional variation of Indonesian, and Carolyn Mullen will add a Germanic voice. Inside the sanctuary, you will also find the words “God Bless You,” written in a variety of languages. I hope that this serves as a joyous celebration for us all.

Peace,

Jon

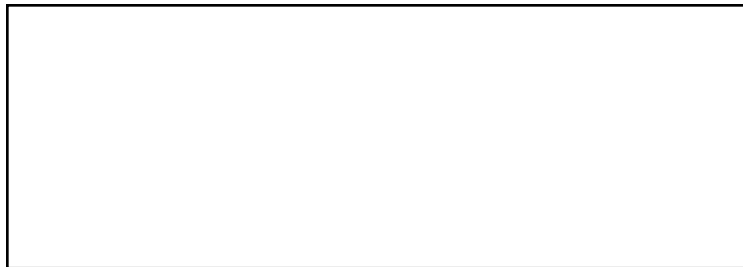
**2015 MAY CALENDAR**

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat   |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
|   |  |  |   |  | 1<br>4pm Cross-fit<br>7:30pm Earth Care<br>Free Concert | 2<br>10am OA<br>10am SIA<br>1pm Bellingham<br>Ukulele Group   |
| 3<br>9am Fellowship<br>Breakfast<br>9am Adult Bible<br>Class<br>10:30am Worship<br>w/communion<br>5pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solutions<br>7pm AA                           | 4<br>8:30am Christian<br>Faith Formation<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solution<br>6pm Boy Scouts<br>6:30pm AA Men's<br>Book Study   | 5<br>8am Prayer Group<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solution<br>4pm Cross-fit<br>5:30pm AI Anon<br>7:30pm WA<br>Gender Alliance  | 6<br>8am Men's Bible<br>Study<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solution<br>5:30pm Mission &<br>Social Action<br>6pm SOS Men's AA | 7<br>10:15am Yoga<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solutions<br>5:15pm Youth<br>5:30pm Building<br>and Grounds<br>5:30pm Congrega-<br>tional Life<br>6:30pm Bell Choir<br>7:15pm AA<br>7:30pm Choir | 8<br>12pm Prime Timers<br>4pm Cross-fit                 | 9<br>9am Church Work<br>Party<br>10am OA<br>10am SIA<br>6pm Music Teach-<br>ers Association                       |
| 10 MOTHER'S DAY<br>9am Fellowship<br>Breakfast<br>9am Adult Bible<br>Class<br>10:30am Worship<br>12pm Session +<br>Lunch<br>5pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solutions<br>7pm AA | 11<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solution<br>6:30pm AA Men's<br>Book Study<br>7pm Boy Scouts   | 12<br>8am Prayer Group<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solution<br>4pm Cross-fit<br>5:30pm AI Anon<br>7pm Preschool<br>Parent Meeting<br>7:30pm WA<br>Gender Alliance                            | 13<br>8am Men's Bible<br>Study<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solution<br>6pm SOS Men's AA<br>6:30pm Weavers<br>Guild          | 14<br>10:15am Yoga<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solutions<br>5:15pm Youth<br>6:30pm Bell Choir<br>7:15pm AA<br>7:30pm Choir   | 15<br>4pm Cross-fit                                     | 16 PULSE DUE!<br>9am Hawthorne<br>Learning Solutions<br>10am OA<br>10am SIA<br>1pm Bellingham<br>Academy of Music |
| 17<br>9am Fellowship<br>Breakfast<br>9am Adult Bible<br>Class<br>10:30am Worship<br>11:30am Deacons<br>5pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solutions<br>7pm AA                      | 18<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solution<br>5:30pm Prayer Vigil<br>for Peace in the<br>Middle East at Hope<br>Lutheran<br>6:30pm AA Men's<br>Book Study<br>7pm Boy Scouts | 19<br>8am Prayer Group<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solution<br>4pm Cross-fit<br>5:30pm AI Anon<br>7:30pm WA<br>Gender Alliance   | 20<br>8am Men's Bible<br>Study<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solution<br>6pm SOS Men's AA                                     | 21<br>10:15am Yoga<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solutions<br>5:15pm Youth<br>6:30pm Bell Choir<br>7:15pm AA<br>7:30pm Choir   | 22<br>4pm Cross-fit                                     | 23<br>10am OA<br>10am SIA   |
| 24 PENTECOST<br>9am Fellowship<br>Breakfast<br>9am Adult Bible<br>Class<br>10:30am Worship<br>5pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solutions<br>7pm AA                               | 25<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solution<br>6:30pm AA Men's<br>Book Study<br>7pm St. James<br>Literary Society<br>7pm Boy Scouts  | 26<br>8am Prayer Group<br>10:30am Women's<br>Bible Study<br>12pm Women's<br>Luncheon<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solution<br>4pm Cross-fit<br>5:30pm AI Anon<br>7:30pm WA<br>Gender Alliance | 27<br>8am Men's Bible<br>Study<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solution<br>6pm SOS Men's AA                                     | 28<br>10:15am Yoga<br>2:30pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solutions<br>5:15pm Youth<br>5:45pm Worship<br>6:30pm Bell Choir<br>7:15pm AA<br>7:30pm Choir   | 29<br>4pm Cross-fit<br>4:15pm Member-<br>ship           | 30<br>10am OA<br>10am SIA   |
| 31 9am Fellowship<br>Breakfast<br>9am Adult Bible<br>Class<br>10:30am Worship<br>12pm Sermon<br>Feedback<br>5pm Hawthorne<br>Learning Solutions<br>7pm AA                 | <div>For events not listed on this calendar, check out the St. James website!<br/><a href="http://www.saintjamespres.org">www.saintjamespres.org</a></div>                   |  |   |  |   | <div>Children's Co-Op Preschool For information please call 360-510-9558</div>                                    |

**St. James Presbyterian Church**  
910 14th Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225

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### **St. James Presbyterian Church**

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[www.saintjamespres.org](http://www.saintjamespres.org)  
[office@saintjamespres.org](mailto:office@saintjamespres.org)  
360-733-1325

#### **Ministers: The Congregation**

Melany Armstrong, Organist/Pianist  
Cascade Vocational Services:  
Don Bayne, Aaron Cook, Vernon Point, Custodians  
Tarryn Brands, Nursery Attendant  
Ben Gamman, Youth Director  
Marina Gresham, Treasurer  
The Rev. Jon Hauerwas, Pastor  
Carolyn Mullen, Music Director  
Natasha Orme, Office Manager  
Lena Rachinski, Youth Director  
Payton de Witt, Nursery Attendant  
Kara Hauerwas, Carla Shafer, and  
Merry Thomas, ages 3-5

Don't forget to check out  
the St. James website!  
[saintjamespres.org](http://saintjamespres.org)



#### **Sunday Worship Schedule**

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

#### **Office Hours**

Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
You may reach Pastor Jon after 2pm  
at 360-510-1750  
email: [jon@saintjamespres.org](mailto:jon@saintjamespres.org)

