

# THE PULSE giving

This year's stewardship theme, "Celebrating Our Strengths," was inspired by a sermon I gave last spring. Titled, "When Little Becomes Much," it was about the widow in I Kings whose resources were nearly depleted. Just when she was ready to make one last meal for herself and her son, then give up and die, Elijah showed up asking for food. That's some nerve – but his was an audacity founded on faith. Elijah called the widow to that same trust in God and in God's provision, and out of that trust, to give from what she had. (By the way, that's a stewardship sermon in itself.)

It's all too easy, especially in smaller churches, to focus on what is lacking rather on what one has. But as I said, that widow can inspire us to turn from a focus on scarcity to a trust in God's provision, from anxiety over what is lacking to a recognition of the gifts we enjoy. I reminded you of some of the ways you have been gifted as a congregation – a healthy budget, a wonderful choir, a beautiful building, an active women's association. The stewardship committee picked up the theme, echoing the strengths I named, and adding more: financial reserves, generous giving, deep involvement of dedicated members, great fellowship, and a welcoming & inclusive culture.

These are indeed strengths to be celebrated; but let us not forget that they are also gifts. In fact, they are first and foremost gifts. All we have is from God. That's a fundamental affirmation of our faith. So we give out of gratitude, and in recognition that nothing we have is truly ours, but has been entrusted to us for our good and faithful use. We affirm this each Sunday in our sung response following the offering:

"For the gifts that you have given,  
for the love in Christ made known,  
with these fruits of time and labor,  
with these gifts that are your own;  
here we offer, Lord, our praises;  
heart and mind and strength we bring;  
give us grace to love and serve you,  
living what we pray and sing."



Our stewardship is a way of living what we pray and sing. Or as John Westerhoff put it, "Stewardship is what we do after we say we believe." It is an enacted expression of our discipleship, a spiritual discipline. It's not about giving what's left over to God, but giving first to God – in gratitude for all that God has given us. I invite you this stewardship season to reflect on how you have been gifted, individually and as a church, and then to respond with open hearts and hands as you consider your gift to your church.

In faith,  
Pastor Janet



## PULSE

## THE TABLE IS SET.

*“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?” —Psalm 78:19*

The Peace & Global Witness Offering exists to ignite a movement of Presbyterians engaged in the Christian witness of peacemaking and reconciliation. For generations, and to the ends of the earth, Presbyterians have borne witness to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Our witness has been profound in our own communities and in places we ourselves have never been, around the corner and around the world.

Gifts to the Offering support ministries that deepen relationships between Presbyterians and inspiring peacemaking leaders as well as opportunities to learn more about some of the most difficult areas of conflict around the world. These ministries offer resources Presbyterians can use to create peace in their midst, as well as respond to cultures of violence all over the world. By sharing the money raised, the Offering allows the local congregation (25%), mid councils (25%), and ministries at the national level (50%) to deepen their commitment to the transforming work of the Spirit.

This Leader’s Guide contains resources to help you and your congregation in supporting the Peace & Global Witness Offering this World Communion Sunday. This year’s theme is inspired by the cry from a people feeling abandoned to a cruel existence: The psalmist quotes the people as they ask; “Can God spread a table in the wilderness?” In response, the author reminds the people that the God who delivered them from bondage in Egypt could not only spread a table in the wilderness, but had already done so over and over again.

For many of us, it is easy to see the violence around us and hear of the violence across the globe and feel as though it is a wilderness we are abandoned to. In the stories shared here, we hope you see just a few of the ways that God spreads a table of peace where the world offers violence and division. They serve as reminders of times when people have been brought together at “tables” of all types. From tables where hard conversations have taken place, to tables where people sat in protest against injustice, to tables where seemingly intractable hate was transformed into com-

passion and community. All these tables are God’s. Even in our doubts, our fears, or suffering, God can spread a table of peace for all to share. We see it in these stories, and it is revealed anew at the communion table.

This article was taken from the resources provided by our denomination. To read the stories referenced here access the Leader’s Guide at:

[PRESBYTERIANMISSION.ORG/PEACE-GLOBAL](http://PRESBYTERIANMISSION.ORG/PEACE-GLOBAL)

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

**COME TO THE TABLE OF PEACE**

2016 LEADER'S GUIDE | SEPTEMBER 4 - OCTOBER 2

**THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE**

- † Through your congregation
- ☎ Text PEACE to 20222 to give \$10
- 🌐 [presbyterianmission.org/give/peace-global](http://presbyterianmission.org/give/peace-global)

*This year at St. James, 25% of the total offering will be divided among Tierra Nueva’s jail ministry, Engdi Refuge in Lynden for women who have been involved in human trafficking and Whatcom Peace and Justice Center. By giving to this offering, you support peacemaking work that brings people to God’s table of peace, even in the deepest conflict.*

OCTOBER 2016

## AUGUST FINANCIAL STATUS

	August	Current Budget	Yr to Date	Yr to Date Budget
Income	\$14,922	\$17,532	\$153,262	\$152,522
Expenses	\$16,422	\$15,528	\$137,436	\$149,773

Finance Committee

Dick Carr, Chair

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee we want to remind you that the fall Stewardship Campaign is underway once again. Our commitments to St. James are very important to the life of the church. We encourage each of you to read the packet that has been provided to you and to provide a response to the church regarding your pledge financially and with time and talent support for 2017. You can put your commitments in the original envelope provided in the packet and bring it to church or mail it if you wish. The church office will accept them as well as put them in the collection plate on Sunday. The committee wants each of you to provide a response even if you are unable to make a pledge and commit time and talent to the church. If you have any questions, please contact the church office and they will get in contact with one of us.

We thank you for your support! Stewardship Committee



**Public Meeting on Saturday, October 1, 9:30 am**  
 Bellingham Public Library, 210 Central Ave, Bellingham

Featuring the documentary film ***Fix It*** which takes an in-depth look at our dysfunctional healthcare system and explores how a single payer system would provide health care for all Americans, cut costs, and eliminate medical bankruptcies. Admission free.

United for National Healthcare (360-398-2295)  
[supporter@unitedforhealthcare.org](mailto:supporter@unitedforhealthcare.org)

## PULSE

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### Interfaith Coalition Annual Hope Meeting and 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

This year, Interfaith Coalition is celebrating 35 years of sharing God's love in our community. Join us for our Annual Hope Meeting and 35<sup>th</sup> Celebration for a meaningful evening of fellowship, inspiration and an opportunity to transform lives. Hear from volunteers who share stories of compassion and hope. Learn how you can help us serve additional homeless families through a new program.

Be part of an active community of individuals and congregations dedicated to our neighbors in need. We'll have music, refreshments and appreciation for being our partners in change.

Please join us on Monday, October 17 at 7 pm at Bellingham Covenant Church, 1530 E. Bakerview Road in Bellingham.



### Do You Knit?

Your cozy, hand-made hats and scarves can help many in need stay warm. We distribute items through our CAST (food on the street) program every week, and hundreds more every winter through our Winter Coat Drive and severe weather shelters.

### Other Ways to Help

We gratefully accept all yarn donations and will distribute that yarn to anyone interested in knitting hats and scarves for Project Warm Up.

### Questions about Project Warm Up

Email the volunteer coordinator, RonaLee, at [Ikincaid@aol.com](mailto:Ikincaid@aol.com), or call Interfaith Coalition at 734-3983.

*Many of our Whatcom County neighbors struggle with life's basics: shelter, food and support. Interfaith Coalition programs are focused on filling in the gaps in human service that allow people on the edges of society to live with dignity and hope.*



OCTOBER 2016

### Providing Warmth to Neighbors in Need

Interfaith Coalition's annual winter coat drive provides warm outerwear for everyone from babies to seniors. Please bring clean, gently used or new winter coats, gloves, scarves and hats to worship services through October 16. Interfaith will distribute these to people in four locations across Whatcom County. If you are a knitter, handmade hats and scarves are also cherished. For many of our neighbors, this program means they won't need to spend limited income on a winter coat, or do without.

**DONATIONS of gently-used and new coats, hats & mittens are appreciated through Oct. 16**  
**Please place winter coats on hangers in the designated coat closet in the Narthex. Hats, scarves and gloves are to be put in the basket below the coats.**



Winter coats are distributed in Blaine, Ferndale, Bellingham and Deming. Coats are collected at many congregations throughout Whatcom County and at all of the Banner Bank branches.

Here is the distribution schedule:

- **Blaine - Friday and Saturday, Oct. 14-15, 9 am - 5 pm** at Livingston International Warehouse
- **Bellingham - Saturday, Oct. 22, 11 am - 1:30 pm** and **Saturday, Oct. 29 from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm** at Assumption Church Gym
- **Deming - Tuesday, Nov. 1 from 9 - 11:30 am** at Foothills Food Bank, located in St. Peter's Catholic Church
- **Ferndale - Wednesday, Nov. 9 and Saturday, Nov. 12 from 10 am - 1 pm** at United Church of Ferndale

Thank you for sharing the warmth!

## PULSE

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### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Rick Hodgson
1	Jim Mullen
4	Lance Melrose
5	Jon Hauerwas
6	Jim DeWilde
8	Marilyn Methven
10	Neal Jackson
11	Carla Shafer
12	Christian Beaty
12	Ian Jackson
13	Don Hoyt
13	Beth Hawthorne
15	Rob Reimers
24	Claude Hill
24	Sean Keyes
25	Tom McVie
26	Peter Burkland
27	Robin Crandall
28	Susannah Mohr
31	Nancy Hamilton
31	Rook Van Halm

### MONTHLY PW MEETING

St. James' Women's Association (Presbyterian Women) will meet for bible study and potluck salad luncheon Tuesday, Oct. 25. Bible study begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by a luncheon at noon. Those who have time constraints can choose one or the other, but all are welcome to enjoy both gatherings.

The bible study is led from the Horizons book, *Who Is Jesus?* by Judy Yates Siker. Siker leads the study through the gospels, having begun last month with Mark. October's study is titled According to Matthew. We will focus on Matthew 13: 51-53.

The luncheon speaker is from *Bellingham At Home*, a new organization that helps older residents remain in their homes while coping with disabilities.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the five Sundays in October, children will experience ways in which they are included in God's family.

**Oct. 2,** "Living Love Letter" focuses on 2 Timothy 1:1-14; the story helps children connect their own families with their overall faith family.

**Oct. 9,** "Reoriented Toward Gratitude" focuses on Luke 17:11-19. The story spotlights someone who went back and said "thank you" to Jesus.

**Oct. 16,** "A Voice for Justice" focuses on Luke 18:1-8. This story links children's struggles in learning new skills with the comforting idea that God is there with them throughout their learning.

**Oct. 23,** "Dance of Pride and Humility" focuses on Luke 18:9-14. In this session, children are encouraged to know that God listens to every word they tell Him.

**Oct. 30,** "Salvation for All" focuses on Luke 19:1-10. It is the story of Zaccheas -- who, like children, had to get up higher to see what was going on. Children learn that they are not too small to be included in God's family.

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# OCTOBER CALENDAR 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> Co-op Preschool Schedule: 360-510-9558  Hawthorne Learning Solutions Schedule:  contact <a href="mailto:hlearningsolutions@gmail.com">hlearningsolutions@gmail.com</a> </div>						1 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
Pastor Janet on study leave through Oct 9						
2 Peace offer- ing/World Com- munion Sunday 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/Communion - Rev. Dean Strong preaching 7:15pm AA	3 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	4 8am Prayer Group 10am Yoga 12:30pm Interfaith 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Finance 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	5 3pm Christian Faith Formation 6pm SOS Men's AA	6 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congrega- tional Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	7 7am Co-op Garage Sale Set Up 4pm Cross-fit	8 7am Co-op Garage Sale 9am Church Work Party 10am OA
9 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship - Rev. Tom Patter- son preaching 3pm Rev. Dick Madden Memorial 7:15pm AA	10 Columbus Day 10am Grief Support Group 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	11 8am Prayer Group 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 4pm Mission and Social Action 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	12 10am Bible Study 3pm Session (BYOL) 5pm Weaver's Guild 6pm SOS Men's AA	13 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	14 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit 7:30pm Genealogy Society Set Up	15 7am Genealogy Society 10am OA
16 PULSE DUE 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons 7:15pm AA	17 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	18 8am Prayer Group 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at BUF 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	19 10am Bible Study 6pm SOS Men's AA	20 10:15am Yoga 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	21 4pm Cross-fit	22 10am OA 2pm Parish Luncheon Set Up
23 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Parish Luncheon 7:15pm AA	24 10am Grief Support Group 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm St. James Literary Society	25 8am Prayer Group 10am Yoga 10:30am Women's Bible Study 12pm Women's Luncheon 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	26 10am Bible Study 6pm SOS Men's AA	27 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Worship Committee 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	28 3pm Membership Committee 4pm Cross-fit	29 10am OA
30 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA	31 Halloween 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study					

## PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

October 18, 2016 from 5:30pm-6:00pm

### Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

1207 Ellsworth Street, Bellingham

(360) 733-3837

Bellingham faith communities continue the monthly prayer vigils for peace in the Middle East, which were started in December 2000 at the initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and organized Nationally by Churches for Middle East Peace. The prayer vigils are held on the 18th of each month from 5:30pm-6:00pm at various faith communities.

Join our ecumenical prayer vigil for the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities in Jerusalem, for all those, Israelis and Palestinians, who are suffering in the Holy Land, and for peace in the Middle East and the world.



### Dick Madden's Memorial Service

3:00pm on Sunday, October 9th

St. James Presbyterian Church

*In lieu of flowers, donations made be made to St. James Presbyterian Church or to  
Whatcom Hospice -- 2800 Douglas Ave, Bellingham, WA 98225*



### St. James Presbyterian Church

910 - 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

[www.saintjamespres.org](http://www.saintjamespres.org)

[office@saintjamespres.org](mailto:office@saintjamespres.org)

360-733-1325

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

Children's Ministry: Merry Thomas, Coordinator

Zadra Nolan, Teacher

Clerk of Session: Carla Shafer

Custodians: Cascade Vocational Services:

Don Bayne, Aaron Cook, Vernon Point

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Janet Sonnanburg

Music Director: Carolyn Mullen

Office Manager: Natasha Orme

Organist/Pianist: Melany Armstrong

Treasurer: Marina McLeod

### Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

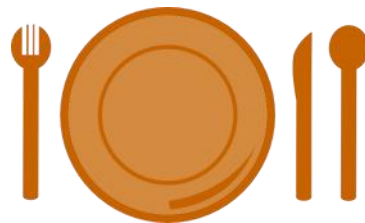
10:45 a.m. Children's Time

### St. James Annual Parish Luncheon

Sunday, October 23, 2016

After Church Service

Fellowship Hall



***Parishioners Are Asked to Bring  
Salad or Dessert***

Deacons Will Provide Main Course & Drinks

