

# the Pulse

July 2017

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## Origin Stories

Summer in Bellingham is a time to get back to the core joys of life — time in the great outdoors, time spent with dear friends and family, time to slow down and seek restoration after the long winter months. For many of us, it's a time when we remember why we love this place so much. School is out, the weather gets better, more people are out walking the interurban trail, the restaurants downtown buzz with life and laughter.

The return of summer reminds me of a return to our core. Or, as we are studying this summer at Saint James, it's a return to origins. To the places where it all begins, the parts of our human story that set us on a trajectory of life as God's people. We return to our origin stories to remember who we are made, by God, to be. As we witness God speaking goodness into being in the beautiful narrative of Genesis 1, so we walk forward remembering that we come from goodness and in goodness we are called to journey onward.

We also recognize that this goodness and beauty at our origins comes into tension with the brokenness we experience in the world. As you take time to rest during the summer, perhaps the division and sadness of your world becomes more clear. When we slow

down, we often confront the harder things we've been pushing out of focus because we are no longer distracted. We come into contact with the truth that while God's good blessing is upon our lives, we also experience a deep ache and longing for a better way, for peace inside and all around us, for restoration and justice.

Returning to our origins, remembering the stories of where we come from, helps us to frame the entirety of our lives as a narrative. If we begin to take stock of how God has blessed us and called us to live in the world, all through life, we also begin to catch a glimpse for how God calls us to live forward. Our origins point to our meaning, our ultimate end.

This summer, we will come into close contact with what is at the core of our human stories. As a church will have the opportunity to examine who we are, who we have always been called to be as Saint James Presbyterian Church. As we study in Genesis, I hope there are resonances with the stories of the messy, good, beautiful, broken people of the text (Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and the whole nation of Israel).

My hope would be that you find yourself in these stories. We are no different than these early followers of God. We stumble and strive to discover who we are meant to be, slowly moving from our origins to become a community of love, mercy, justice, and humility in God's name.

As you play and rest and soak up the sun this summer, I hope that you are reminded of the deep goodness that you find in this place, in Bellingham, WA. And as you are reminded of the goodness of our city, may you also remember that you are called and placed here to participate in God's work of restoration and peace-making in the world.

Grace and peace,  
Seth



This is a Thank-you Song, sung at the blessing of the new Maple Alley Inn kitchen,  
with appreciation for all those who generously contributed.

Submitted by Gretchen Pfueller

## SONG FOR A NEW KITCHEN

*Sung to the tune of the hymn "Blessed Assurance"*



Lots of discussion — fund-raising too,  
Brought us together to see what to do.  
People were hungry, ovens were old —  
time for renewal, as we were told.

### CHORUS

This is our kitchen — treat it with care,  
Faith members welcome volunteers here,  
Anne, Becci, Morgan — your place and ours,  
*greeting the guests with good food and flowers.*

Permits were issued, chapter and verse,  
Mike had some headaches -Jon had them worse  
Back in the winter we tore it apart,  
now it's all ready for a new start.

### CHORUS

Meat from the county, fish from the sea,  
herbs for the flavor, pesticide free.  
Kale from the garden, salad stuff too -  
grown here with love — most certainly true.

### CHORUS

Generous donors — thanks for the dough!  
Now we're all ready to get on with the show.  
So many people, kindness for all -  
feeding God's children in Faith's social hall.

### CHORUS

## “Godly Play” Coming Soon!



The St. James Church School will begin the Sunday morning curriculum, Godly Play soon. This program is being used in at least seven other churches in Bellingham with great success. Children, parents and teachers believe that it presents the Bible stories in a way that children are drawn to wonder about God, creation, the church, and their place in all of those.

Zadra Nolan and Lucy Sieczk will be taking the training for Godly Play this summer. We know that they will come back excited and eager to share this program with our children.

If you would like to see the Godly Play lessons in action, there are several sessions on You Tube. You may find yourself drawn into the stories yourself!

Please call Merry Thomas or Faye Hill if you have questions.

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July 2: “Even a Cup of Cold Water....” This lesson focuses on Matthew 10:40-42. Help children learn to welcome new friends by encouraging them to play with dolls and stuffed animals, creating stories about how they might help them.

July 9

“Delight”, this lesson focuses on Gen. 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67. This is the story of Rebekah, which depicts the ability to choose. Children will learn that God invites them to make choices. They can explore their own choices with those of their friends. Adults’ loving encouragement can help them make healthy choices.

July 16

“Division”, this lesson focuses on Gen. 25:19-34. This lesson emphasizes the ability to recognize and express feelings. Encourage children to talk about their feelings and express them in healthy ways. Let them know that God is with them despite troubling emotions.

July 23

“Promises” focuses on Genesis 28:10-19a. Adults can help children understand that they are a blessing (special) to God and to other people.

July 30

“Honor” focuses on Genesis 29:15-28. This story depicts Jacob’s visit to relatives and his meeting Rachel, with whom he falls in love. Adults can encourage children by letting them know that there will always be someone to love and care for them, no matter how far they travel. Help children understand that God is a reality within loving relationships.

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## Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East

July 18th from 5:30pm-6pm

United Church of Ferndale

2034 Washington St., Ferndale, (360) 384-3302

On Tuesday, July 18 at 5:30 p.m., United Church of Ferndale will host the monthly Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East. Since December 2000 some 20 faith communities in Bellingham, Ferndale, and Lynden have taken turns in hosting the vigil. "Churches for Middle East Peace", representing many denominations, asked churches nationwide to have one day a month in which prayers and awareness would be focused on the Middle East. Churches in the States of Washington and Kansas were asked to do it on the 18th of the month. The service lasts about 30 minutes. Please join us that day to pray for peace in that troubled part of the world.

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### MAY FINANCIAL STATUS

May	Current Budget	Yr. to Date	Yr. to Date	Budget
Income	\$19,365	\$15,952	\$100,284	\$92,114
Expenses	\$15,817	\$10,037	\$ 82,441	\$91,254

Some persons contribute their pledge on a six month cycle and so our income for May was higher.

The Finance Committee wants to thank each of you for your financial support to St. James.

Finance Committee  
Dick Carr, Chair

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### Highlights from the 11 June 2017 Session Meeting

Session members and their associated committees:

Laurie Anderson	Membership
Dick Carr	Finance
Tracy Caruso	Nominating
Tim Crandall	Personnel
Jill Hoyt	Worship and Music
Gretchen Pfueller	Mission Social Action
Merry Thomas	Christian Faith Formation
Jeanne Uhles	Building and Grounds

Motion(s) passed since the 7 May 2017 Session Meeting:

- Merry Thomas was elected as Commissioner for the 8 June 2017 Leadership Summit

Session offsite summit is scheduled for Friday, 4 August 2017

Mark Beaty  
Clerk of Session

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**PULSE**

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**July Birthdays**

- 1 Milt Schayes
- 2 Jo McLeod
- 3 Parker DeWilde
- 4 Carolyn Mullen
- 5 Pat Nelson
- 7 Inge Thurston
- 10 Bill Butler
- 12 Merry Thomas
- 16 Karen Rogers
- 17 Karen Harnden Haggen
- 18 Charlotte Burkland
- 21 Gretchen Pfueller
- 25 Ed Simmers
- 25 Betsy Freeman
- 26 Bob Monahan
- 31 Brian Seater

**July Anniversaries**

- 9 Jim and Jody DeWilde
- 16 Dave and Pat Nelson
- 20 Gale and Gretchen Pfueller
- 24 Randy and Teresa Bowers
- 29 Stacy and Seth Thomas

**Newsletter Deadline is July 16**

Getting the news to you in a timely manner is important to us and we love it when you submit your articles early!

Email your articles to the church office at  
[office@saintjamespres.org](mailto:office@saintjamespres.org)

got news?

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The 9:00am Sunday adult class will meet at 9:30am through August 27th.



**Bellingham Bells Family Fun Day  
Sunday, August 6, 3:05pm.**

Let's go as a group and have a "ball"!

Please sign up for tickets in the Narthex or let Tracy Caruso ([tracye.caruso@gmail.com](mailto:tracye.caruso@gmail.com)) know you would like tickets.

For groups of 20-40 tickets are \$6.50.

We need to get tickets ASAP as this is the last game of the season and is usually sold out.

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## Good Neighbor Project

The Lighthouse Mission is expanding its Good Neighbor Project and we invite you to join us! The Mission is committed to breaking the cycle of homelessness in the lives of Whatcom county residents through hot meals, safe shelter, and one-on-one case management.

In the spirit of being a good neighbor, the Good Neighbor Project is a way we're giving back to the community that hosts our guests. It's a fun, family-friendly service opportunity! Join Mission guests and help us pick up litter as a tangible way to bless our neighbors. If you are interested in participating in the project on a regular basis or one time with a group, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Katie, at [katiea@thelighthousemission.org](mailto:katiea@thelighthousemission.org) or 360-733-5120 ext. 107 for more information!

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## Interfaith Coalition

Interfaith Coalition has opportunities for you to make a difference in the lives of your Whatcom County neighbors. This summer we could use help doing exterior maintenance and repairs on our houses and would welcome with things like: painting, tree/brush trimming, mowing, general carpentry, etc. Skilled or not skilled – you can help! Knitters can begin making hats and scarves for Project Warm Up to distribute this winter, or donate yarn for others to do so. *Kids Need Books* distributes books to low-income families in Bellingham and the county, and your donations of new or gently-used kids' books will help many kids avoid the "summer learning slide." Call Interfaith at **734-3983**, or email [info@interfaith-coalition.org](mailto:info@interfaith-coalition.org) for more info to donate, volunteer, or learn more.

**PULSE**

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## PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is a national initiative sponsored by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and is now implemented in well over 700 communities across the United States as well as Canada and Australia. Bellingham/Whatcom Project Homeless Connect was first adopted in 2007 during Phase 3 of the Whatcom County Plan to End Homelessness. United Way of Whatcom County continues as our fiscal agent.

Our local PHC is a 1-day, 1-stop event focused on mobilizing community volunteers and local service providers in order to:

- Invite and welcome people who are homeless
- Reduce barriers to service
- Provide immediate and complete service outcomes
- Create sustainable and long-term service partnerships
- Track and publicize results that connect to the County Plan to End Homelessness

Among the many services available at PHC, guests can receive dental exams and services, vision and hearing screenings, housing intakes, DOL photo ID, haircuts, general medical exams, foot care, employment screenings, health insurance assistance, legal and dispute resolution counsel, GAU and SSA help, pet care, massage and chiropractic treatment, as well as literacy and library assistance.

If you would like to volunteer at Project Homeless Connect on Friday, July 24, please go to the *Project Homeless Connect 2017* web site and click on *register here*. There you will find specific jobs and times.

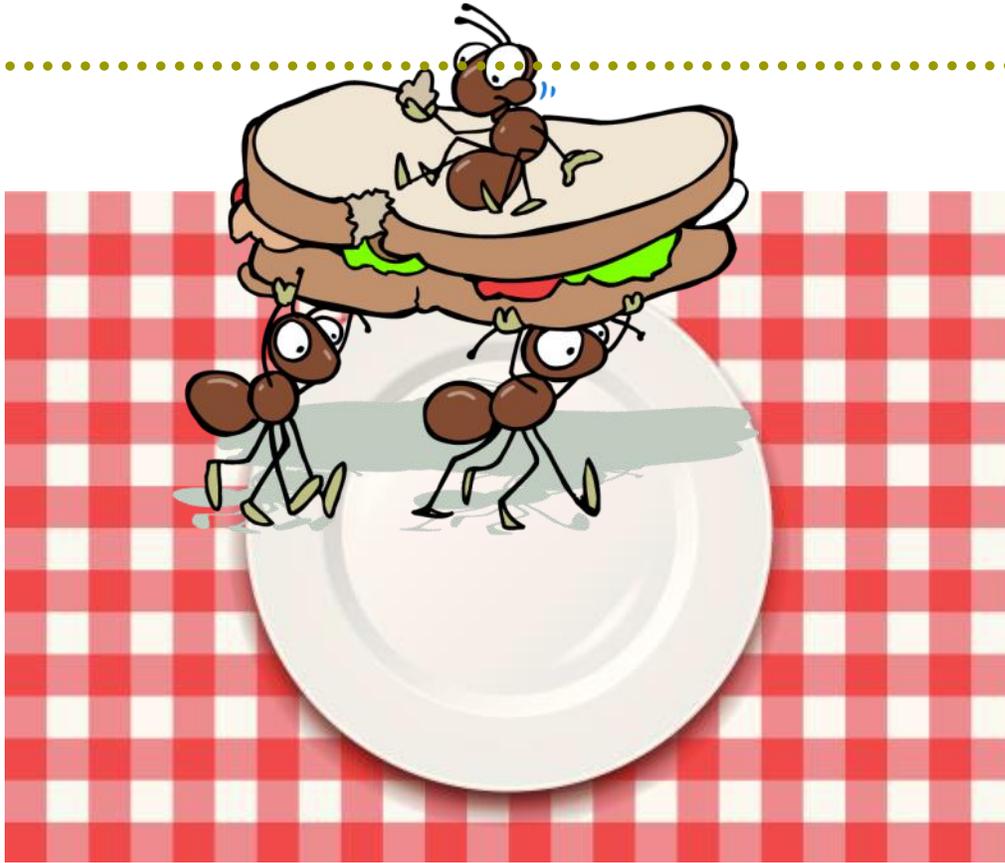
Here at St. James we will continue to collect items as listed in the June Pulse (See below). Please place items in the bottom basket of the shopping cart in the Narthex until July 14.

*The list does include “undies” which we have collected for the event the last few years.*

### 2017 Essential Needs/Give Away List

- Hygiene items-small to medium sized is ideal (*toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, soap, mouthwash, floss, deodorant, sunscreen, chap stick, baby wipes, tampons, pads, laundry soap, shampoo, conditioner*)
- Socks (for adults & children)
- New Underwear (for adults & children)
- Ziploc Bags (new)
- Hand Sanitizer
- External Backup Battery Charger
- Hand Warmers
- Garbage Bags
- Blankets
- Sleeping Bags
- Tarps
- Tents
- Flashlights & Batteries
- Gloves/Hats
- Backpacks (school & backpacking)
- Shoes/Boots (for adults & children) **\*TENNIS SHOES & BOOTS ONLY**
- Sustainable Hygiene products (e.g. Diva Cup)





# St. James Annual Church Picnic

Sunday July 16, 2017

11:30 – 2:30 PM

## **HERE AT ST. JAMES**

Picnickers are asked to bring:  
Salad, Dessert, Side Dish, or Chips

Church will provide:  
Hotdogs, Drinks, and Ice Cream

## Hope to see you here!

Deacons will be hosting



**JULY CALENDAR 2017**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Pulse articles are due on the 16th of each month. Please mark your calendars.</b></p>		<p>For events not listed on this calendar, check out the St. James website! <a href="http://www.saintjamespres.org">www.saintjamespres.org</a></p>				<p>1 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group</p>
<p>2 9:30am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/Communion 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>3 10am Grief Support Group 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study</p>	<p>4 Independence Day Office Closed 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance</p>	<p>5 11:15am Tai Chi 12:15am Chair Tai Chi 12:30pm Parish Walk 3:30pm Mission and Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA</p>	<p>6 10:15am Yoga 2:45pm Christian Faith Formation 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Building and Grounds 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>7 BELLINGHAM PRIDE ALL WEEKEND</p>	<p>8 10am OA</p>
<p>9 9:30am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons 12pm Session BYOL 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>10 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study</p>	<p>11 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance</p>	<p>12 11:15am Tai Chi 12:15am Chair Tai Chi 12:30pm Parish Walk 6pm SOS Men's AA</p>	<p>13 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>14 12pm Prime Timers 6:30pm Church Work Party</p>	<p>15 10am OA</p>
<p>16 Pulse Items Due 9:30am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Annual Church Picnic at St. James 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>17 10am Grief Support Group 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study</p> <p>Pastor Seth gone until the 24th Natasha Orme gone until the 25th</p>	<p>18 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at United Church of Ferndale 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance</p>	<p>19 11:15am Tai Chi 12:15am Chair Tai Chi 6pm SOS Men's AA</p>	<p>20 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 10am OA</p>
<p>23 9:30am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>24 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study</p>	<p>25 10:15am Yoga 12pm Women's Salad Potluck Luncheon 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance</p>	<p>26 11:15am Tai Chi 12:15am Chair Tai Chi 12:30pm Parish Walk 6pm SOS Men's AA</p>	<p>27 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>28 3pm Membership</p>	<p>29 9am Pet Partners 10am OA</p>
<p>30 9:30am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>31 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study</p>			<p><b>Bayside Co-Op Preschool</b> For information please call 360-733-3972</p>		
				<p><b>Hawthorne Learning Solutions</b> Contact Matt and Emily Hawthorne for times and dates. <a href="mailto:hlearningsolutions@gmail.com">hlearningsolutions@gmail.com</a></p>		