

July Pastor's Update - *Re-membering*

Bellingham is officially in “summer mode” — more activity outdoors, trips out of town are taken (finally), and the buzz of the academic year gives way to a more “subdued” pace. However, this year, it seems we need a different perspective on “summering” in Bellingham. This is a summer for us to *Re-member*. *Re-member*? Let me explain...

For so much of the past year, we've had to put many of our community gatherings and social connections on hold — the places where we belong and call ourselves members have not been as freely available. So now, we are able to rejoin these communities, become members again. Not that we ever stopped belonging, but now we experience the joy of re-committing to those people and places and envisioning new ways of life going forward.

This is where the “re” in *re-member* comes in. Not only are we welcomed back to our existing communities, but we have an opportunity to *re-configure* and *re-make* the places we care about as they become a part of a new chapter in our life together.

Our church has already begun this *re-membering* process. **WELCOME BACK** to our longtime members — back to your church that has grown and shifted and rearranged this past year to faithfully follow and serve Christ amidst a challenging season. And **WELCOME** to the many new visitors and participants in our worshipping life together! We're so glad you've found a home here.

The people of God are well equipped to *re-member*. At the heart of our Presbyterian denomination's vision for the world is the recognition that we are “*re-formed*.” Reformed and always reforming — always seeking out the way God is moving in our communities, faithfully serving in fresh ways as the Spirit leads. We will gather again, and in doing so, we will live out our *re-formed* purpose to follow where God leads and grow from there.

I pray that you will *re-member* with us in the season ahead. There is much to be hopeful about as we emerge from this long year. We will continue to *re-form* and *re-member* as we step out together in faith.

As we move through the summer, we have plans to offer a few ways for our community to *re-member* together.

1. **New Members**

If you are new to St. James Presbyterian, we welcome you to attend a gathering in Mid-August (look for details in next month's Pulse and bulletins) to meet each other, fellowship, and learn about what it means to become a *member* of our congregation. I hope you will join us and consider committing to serve Christ with us at St. James.

2. **Airing Grief: Spaces to Lament**

For all of us, this year has been filled with loss and grief. So this September, I plan to host a gathering that will give space for us to lament what we have lost, what was missing, and to name our pain as a community so we can begin to heal.

3. **Post-COVID Survey**

As we emerge from this crisis, it is essential we process what we have learned. How have you grown, what have you learned, how has your faith sustained through the pandemic? Please watch your email inboxes for a survey where you will have an opportunity to share your reflections. Sign up for weekly messages at <http://www.saintjamespres.org/subscribe>

Finally, *re-member* that you belong to the Body of Christ, of which many members comprise a whole, healthy, thriving body. We look forward to re-membering with one another, knit together by the power of God's Spirit, at work in us.

Grace and peace,



Pastor Seth



Finance Committee Update - June 2021

Join Us - Finance Committee Opening!

By Lindsay Anderson, Finance Chair

The St. James Finance Committee has 1-2 openings if you would like to join us in on the “fun-ance”! We meet monthly to review the church’s general operating budget, as well as our endowments and designated giving funds. We also help to plan stewardship campaigns and other capital projects. If you have experience and a heart for budgeting, stewardship, and a desire to help us continue the legacy set before us, please reach out to me (Finance Chair, Lindsay Anderson, lindsaynicole12@gmail.com or Reverend Seth Thomas (pastor@saintjamespres.org)).

Thank you to all who continue to pray, support, and give to St. James! We are continuing to see a slight overall deficit in our YTD general operating budget, but we remain steady in our reserves. This roughly \$6,000 deficit is below the deficit we projected by about \$5,000. The finance committee and our treasurer have been monitoring trends over the past few years and it is not uncommon to see fluctuations throughout the year. Thank you again for your gifts and pledges as you are able. Many people come together to support this community!

For questions about contributions you may contact Marina McLeod, stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com.

Following is an update on St. James’ Year-End Date General Operating Budget:

<i>Income/Expenses as of 5/31/2021</i>	May Actual	May BUDGET	YTD Actual	YTD BUDGET
Income	\$13,704.00	\$18,719.00	\$91,115.90	\$99,497.00
Expenses	\$17,953.76	\$19,979.20	\$98,182.10	\$110,727.30

Aside from utilizing contact-free offering on Sunday morning, you can give in TWO primary ways:

1. **Online Giving:** You can give a one-time gift or create a recurring monthly pledge. Please visit this webpage to set up or update your online giving: <https://saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving>
If you are new to online giving we’ve got a handy video to show you how, here:
<https://www.loom.com/share/5aea350026204a9cb3c955029dafbdd3>
2. **Mail-In Donations:** You can mail your pledges and gifts to the church.

Saint James Presbyterian Church
910 14th Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

Need assistance or would you like to schedule a contact-free donation pick-up?

Contact Marina McLeod, stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com

Session Highlights - reprinted from June 2021

submitted by Faye Hill, Session moderator, fayeannhill@gmail.com

Here are some highlights from the Session Meeting by Zoom on May 2, 2021:

- Rick Seater brought greetings from the Board of Deacons. The deacons continue to meet monthly and support our members with calls, notes, emails and prayers.
- Treasurer Marina McLeod presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of April (see summary in above Finance section)
- The Session approved vacation dates for Pastor Seth, per his request.
- Building and Grounds chairperson, Aaron Caruso gave an update on building use and announced the need for a new office computer.
- Christian Faith Formation Committee chairperson, Sarah Condreay, reported that Tracy and the committee are in the planning stage for Vacation Bible School, hopefully outdoors, with a meal if church pandemic rules permit. Family retreat at Warm Beach is still on hold, and will likely be pushed into 2022. The committee is looking forward to the time when children can safely re-enter the building and resume Godly Play.
- The Pandemic Response Committee, chaired by Susan Diemont-Conwell, continues to meet monthly and welcomes questions or comments from anyone in the congregation.
- Personnel Committee chairperson, Faye Hill, reported that April 22nd was Shannon Law's last day of employment as Administrative Assistant. Interviews will begin this week for a new person to fill that position. Very favorable annual Staff Performance reviews were conducted in April with Luke Arnold (Music Director) and Tracy Caruso (Director of Children and Family Ministries).
- Seth announced that Reverend Jan Smith will fill the pulpit on May 16th.
- The next meeting of the Session will be on June 13, 2021.



Annual Church Picnic

Save the Date! The Annual Church Picnic will be Sunday, August 1st at the Fairhaven Park Picnic Shelter. To respect ongoing concerns about food and drink serving, this will be a "bring your own picnic lunch" event. The Deacons will provide individually wrapped treats for dessert.

CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

Submitted by Tracy Caruso, Children & Family Ministry Director, tracy@saintjamespres.org



Greetings from the Director of Children and Family Ministries!

What a great beginning to summer we have had! While we still aren't back to our pre covid normal, we are getting closer. We are looking forward to some fun things this summer and then a start to the school year that looks more familiar. For the summer we will continue to have children stay with the adults in the pews and utilize our Illustrated Ministry bulletins that have different activities following our lectionary, and listen to the Godly Play story from their seat. In the fall we will be opening both our nursery and Godly Play classrooms, following school recommended Covid guidelines.

We began June with our new Godly Play series of People Who Inspire and will continue that for most of July. I hope that this past year of getting to see some of our Godly Play stories has given you a sense of the amazing curriculum Godly Play is and given you a sense of wonder as well. We want to keep that wondering alive in all of our congregation, not just for our kids. We are needing people who have felt inspired by Godly Play and would be interested and willing to learn more and help with our program. Please contact tracy@saintjamespres.org or call me if you are interested in becoming more involved in Godly Play!



Looking forward to the end of July and August we will be holding Compassion Camp again! This year we will be in person! Each Sunday from July 25th - August 22nd **everyone**, not just kids, are welcome to come for a time of music, games, and crafts! This year our theme is lovingkindness, and we will learn more about how to show compassion and lovingkindness to ourselves and others! We will need lots of volunteers and participants, so let Tracy know if you are able to join, even if it's just for one Sunday!

July Godly Play Schedule:

People Who Inspire is a collection of stories written to supplement the collection of stories about the saints. This Story, and the others in this collection, serves as an example of a Christian person who inspires us all to strive for justice and respect and the dignity of every human being.

July 4 th	Ruby Bridges
July 11 th	John Lewis
July 18 th	Work Day

A Virtual Interfaith Music Festival and Celebration of Interfaith Congregations

The Interfaith Coalition Music Festival has been an annual highlight for many years. Kevin Allen-Schmid, who has directed the festival in previous years, created a musical film instead of holding an in-person festival. This 42-minute film features photos and music from all 41 member congregations of Interfaith Coalition – an historic first. The grand finale is a virtual choir, featuring 57 singers from congregations across Whatcom County and beyond.

We are thrilled to highlight St. James Presbyterian and our other congregations in this film. You have been part of Interfaith's work to help vulnerable Whatcom County children and adults - originally, in gaining access to medical care for all, and now in helping them escape poverty and homelessness. Seeing your congregation spaces and hearing your voices raised in song is a visual and auditory reminder of the beauty of our diversity and of your commitment to working together for the good of your neighbors.

Here is the link to the film on our YouTube channel (where you can also find other videos, concerts, and events): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hza0IFwSn2c>

Please share this with your congregation, friends, and family with our heart-felt thanks. For those who wish to help support this work through volunteering or donating, please go to our website at www.interfaith-coalition.org.

St. James Mission Partner: Opportunity Council

by Gena Gustafson, gusgustafson@comcast.net

The Opportunity Council is one of the agencies selected by the Mission and Social Action Team to receive donations from Saint James. Opportunity Council is a community action agency serving the homeless, low income families and individuals in our community. Their mission is to help people improve their lives through education, support, and direct assistance while advocating for justice and equitable communities. The work they do makes a difference for families, children, veterans, aging seniors, and our vulnerable neighbors.



Opportunity Council has been active in Bellingham for over fifty years. They offer a broad scope of services from assisting with immediate needs such as food and shelter to longer term programs that promote self sufficiency in our community. A large component of their work and success is in connecting those in need with the most appropriate agency or services. A good example is the work they do to help a family with a special needs child find appropriate medical and educational services. Another role they fill is connecting volunteers to a vast group of social service agencies in our community as well as the local school districts.

Please visit their website: www.opcco.org to learn more about their history and the great work they do.

ST. JAMES STAFF IS AT YOUR SERVICE

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas, pastor@saintjamespres.org

Children & Family Ministry Director: Tracy Caruso, tracy@saintjamespres.org

Music Director: Luke Arnold, music@saintjamespres.org

Treasurer: Marina McLeod, stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com

Administrative Ministry Assistant: Sharon King, office@saintjamespres.org

SESSION OF ST. JAMES

Lindsay Anderson

Tess Bowers

Aaron Caruso

Sarah Condreay

Carol Dellecker

Susan Diemont-Conwell

Faye Hill (Clerk of Session)

Jenny Sue LeSchander

Nebiyu Tesfa

DEACONS

Deacons Parish 1 Merry Thomas, Alice Bailey

Deacons Parish 2 Jean & Rick Seater

Deacons Parish 3 Julie Keyes, Carla Shafer

Deacons Parish 4 Valerie McBeth, Alice Beaty

Deacons Parish 5 Pam Gibson, Adam Beaty

Deacons Parish 6 Kirsten Oliver, Milt Schayes



<https://mlp.org/>

Worship Schedule- Join us for a streaming service

10:30 a.m. Worship is a LIVE service stream and in-building:

<https://saintjamespres.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/>

Summer Office Hours:

9:00am - 12:00pm, Monday - Friday



Enter via the office door on 14th Street.

A mask is required to enter the building if you are not fully vaccinated.

Please sign in at the table by the door.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW BOOK FOR ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB

St. James Book Club is currently reading Bill Browder's *Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice*, A financial caper, a crime thriller, and a political crusade, **Red Notice** is the story of one man taking on overpowering odds to change the world. We will be meeting Monday evening July 19th @ 7:00. Email tracy@saintjamespres.org for the Zoom link.

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

7/1	Milt Shayes	🎂
7/4	Carolyn Mullen	🎂
7/5	Pat Nelson	🎂
7/10	Bill Butler	🎂
7/12	Merry Thomas	🎂
7/14	Max Anderson	🎂
7/16	Dave and Pat Nelson	💕
7/16	Karen Rogers	🎂
7/20	Nebiyu Tesfa	🎂
7/21	Gretchen Pfueller	🎂
7/22	Gale and Gretchen Pfueller	💕
7/24	Randy and Teresa Bowers	💕
7/25	Ed Simmers	🎂
7/25	Betsy Freeman	🎂
7/29	Rory Anderson	🎂
7/29	Stacy and Seth Thomas	💕
7/31	Brian Seater	🎂

Deadlines for church publications

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday, 2:00pm

Weekly email: Thursday, 2:00pm

Monthly "the Pulse": the 25th, 2:00pm

PROGRAMS SHARING OUR FACILITY

AA Fairhaven Group
 AA Men's Book Study Group
 AA SOS Men's Group (in building, Wednesdays)
 Bellingham Com. Chorus
 Bellingham Ukulele Group
 Boy Scouts Troop 7 (in building, Mondays)
 Happy Hour Al-Anon (in building, Tuesdays)
 Overeaters Anonymous
 St. James Fitness
 St. James Yoga
 Linda's Tai Chi (in building, Mondays)
 WA Gender Alliance
 Weavers Guild
 You Are Not Alone (YANA)
 Bayside Co-op Preschool (in building)
 Hawthorne Learning Solutions (in building)
 Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County (in office part-time)

Add your request to the St. James Prayer Chain
Contact your Deacon or St. James at:
360-733-1325 | office@saintjamespres.org

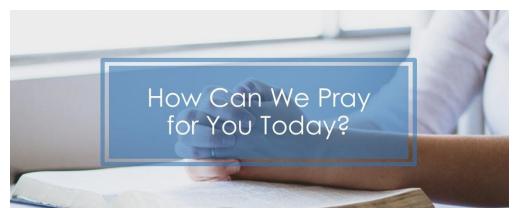




Photo by Sharon King



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