

## ***Kids, Compassion Camp, and the Grace of Intergenerational Communities***

This week, Hailey and Aubrey Caruso were around the church for a bit, “helping out” around the office. Their laughter and energetic voices fill our halls a bit more during the summer months, and I, for one, find it such a joy and grace. They set about making some perler bead crafts on this particular day, which you see in the picture to the right.

After a bit, there was a soft knock on my office door, and they entered bearing the gift of this sweet perler bead heart and cross. Heartfelt designs, given as a gift of friendship. It brightened my day. And it has kept me thinking: ***It is such a grace to have children actively engaged in our church’s life together.***

Jesus has strong words for those who would keep children from joining in with his proclamation of the Kingdom of God. Children are to be welcomed, celebrated, and space should be made for them to hear the good news. I’m so grateful we are a congregation that understands, prioritizes, and honors this part of the Christian life.

This last year has been a drought of intergenerational interactions. With many of our children still ineligible to be vaccinated for COVID-19 and with the harried schedules of parents trying to juggle online school with work, we have had to hold hope and patience for involving children in our life together. Tracy has done an incredible job caring for our Godly Play program and lessons this year to fill the gap. But we long for when we can fully reintegrate our beloved young ones into our regular rhythms of worship and community life.

There is hope on the horizon! In fact, this month, Tracy has developed a perfect opportunity for us to reclaim some of that grace of our intergenerational community. After worship through August, you are invited to participate in Compassion Camp, a time of games, songs, crafts, stories, and fellowship with all members of our church. Compassion Camp will focus on lovingkindness as an attribute of the Christian journey we all aspire to — what a great concept for us to pursue together! I hope you will join us after church each week to get to know some more of our little ones, see how they’ve grown, and help them learn the stories of the faith in fun and engaging ways.

It is easy to think that children are a part of the “church of the future.” Yet, the reality is that they are not about the future. Children are a part of the church RIGHT NOW! We will continue to celebrate them, walk with them, and make space in our life together for them to learn and grow in Christ alongside each of us. Children are a blessing, a grace, and a reminder of God’s call to each of us to embrace the wonder of childlike faith together.

Make sure you join us for Compassion Camp! And please say a HUGE thank you to Tracy Caruso every time you see her for the way she cultivates and cares for our children and youth with compassion, imagination, and love.

Grace and peace,



Pastor Seth



## Finance Committee Update - July 2021

*By Lindsay Anderson, Finance Chair*

The scales have tipped - we are officially more than halfway through 2021! While we continue to see less than projected offerings and pledges, St. James has a lot to celebrate this summer:

- After the 2nd quarter, our deficit is \$5,179 less than expected.
- The Children & Family Ministries launched Summer Compassion Camp - a weekly post-church gathering to learn about how to live and practice lovingkindness towards ourselves and others! People of all ages are learning from the Bible, singing, dancing, crafting, and doing yoga.
- The Mission and Social Action Committee gave \$1,000 to Habitat for Humanity and \$3,000 to the Bellingham Food Bank. During times of uncertainty and increased need, St. James is blessed to be a blessing to others in our community.
- Many tenants - new and returning - are utilizing our building each week. St. James will be updating rental terms and rates in the coming year.
- Repairs to the exterior siding are underway! We will restore and protect against damage from birds and general wear-and-tear.

All of this (and more!) is possible due to the generosity and faithfulness of the St. James community! *Please be sure to read the mid-year Stewardship Update sent from our Pastor, Reverend Seth Thomas and the Finance Committee coming soon to your mailbox or email inbox.*

If for any reason you need to adapt your pledge for the remainder of 2021, or if you have other questions about contributions, please contact Marina McLeod, [stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com](mailto:stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com).

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

<i>Income/Expenses as of 6/30/2021</i>	<b>June Actual</b>	<b>June BUDGET</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD BUDGET</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$14,590.00	\$18,619	\$106,705.90	\$118,116.00
<b>Expenses</b>	\$20,973.46	\$25,017.51	\$119,155.56	\$135,744.81

**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](mailto:stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com)***

## Session Highlights - from July 11, 2021 meeting

submitted by Faye Hill, Session moderator, [fayeannhill@gmail.com](mailto:fayeannhill@gmail.com)

The St. James Session met on July 11<sup>th</sup> in the church lounge for their first in-church meeting in 16 months. All members of the Session were present. Rick Seater joined us as the Deacon representative. Treasurer Marina McLeod attended the meeting and presented the Treasurer's report via Zoom.



- Deacon Rick Seater reminded the Session of the All-Church picnic scheduled on August 1st at Fairhaven Park. He also announced the return of Sunday Morning coffee hour outdoors beginning July 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Treasurer Marina presented the June budget summary from the general fund:
 

Beginning balance	\$ -6,066.20
Income	14,590.00
Expenses	20,973.46
Ending balance	\$ -12,449.66
- Building and Grounds Committee announced that new siding will be added to the west side of the building this summer.
- The Pandemic Response Committee is keeping their eyes on the CDC guidelines regarding variants.
- The Finance Committee is beginning to put the 2022 budget proposals together.
- Pastor Thomas announced the pulpit swap for August: August 1<sup>st</sup> Jan Smith at St. James (Seth at First Presbyterian Church). August 8<sup>th</sup> Doug Bunnell at St. James (Seth at Cordata Presbyterian Church).
- A new member class is planned for August.
- The Session will begin to review the church bylaws in September.
- The next meeting of the Session will be on September 12, 2021.

## New Members Class — Sunday, August 28 — 12 p.m.

What does it mean to “join the church”? What do “members” do in a Presbyterian community? How is St. James structured, who leads, volunteers, and supports our life together?

Find out all about what it means to become an active member at St. James in this informational lunch session. Come to share your journey of faith that has brought you to this church and place in life. Meet other new folks, learn about leadership and volunteer opportunities, and begin your prayerful discernment about joining our church. Our community is growing and changing as we emerge from COVID-19 and we are so glad to welcome you along in the process.

Lunch provided. Please sign up by emailing Pastor Seth ([pastor@saintjamespres.org](mailto:pastor@saintjamespres.org)). If August 28 does not work for you, make-up sessions are available.



## Annual Church Picnic - This Sunday, August 1st

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](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org)



Greetings from the Director of Children and Family Ministries!

We had a great month of July fully welcoming many of you back to in person worship! It has been so good to see so many in person faces that have been missed for so long, as well as many new faces, and we look forward to seeing even more faces as time goes on.

July was spent finishing our Godly Play People Who Inspire series. We are excited to resume Godly Play in September back in our Godly Play classroom. In order to open our classroom, we need Godly Play volunteers! If any of the stories you have heard over the past year and half have touched you or have made you “wonder”, please contact Tracy! We need volunteers to be storytellers and doorkeepers, willing to give one Sunday a month to our Godly Play program. There will be a training in late August for anyone willing to volunteer.



We have also Jumped into Action, and Compassion Camp! This summer is our first multi-generational Vacation Bible School. Sundays from July 25<sup>th</sup> thru August 22<sup>nd</sup> we are meeting after service for a time of music, games, crafts, and even yoga! We hope you can all join us for at least one of our Compassion Camp Sundays.

Looking forward to September our youth group will be participating in the Family Promise Bed Race! The last time our youth participated in this event they brought home the “Best Themed Bed” award! This year we are responsible for building the entire bed on wheels so our youth group is looking for anyone with building/engineering experience to help create the fastest and strongest bed possible for our racers! Please let Tracy know if you are able to assist in building a bed!

Compassion Camp schedule for August

August 1: For Myself: Compassion Helps Me Thrive

August 8: To the Neighbor: Compassion Crosses Barriers

August 15: With the World: Compassion Sees the Big Picture

August 22: Along the Way: Compassion Walks Together with Others

**FAMILY PROMISE SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES** are available August 16-23, as St. James partners with our neighbors, Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Our Savior's Lutheran Church to assist homeless families. The families are currently living in Interfaith Coalition housing during this time of Covid-19 and knowing specific needs in advance is difficult. However, if you are willing to provide dinner for one of the families please contact Gretchen Pfueller at [gmpfueller@gmail.com](mailto:gmpfueller@gmail.com) for more information. She will have a list of needs soon.

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## **St. James Mission and Social Action**

**Community To Community (C2C)** will be holding a "Dignity Dialogue" with Rosa Martha on **Monday, August 9, 2021 at 7:00pm at St. James Presbyterian Church.**

Rosa is visiting Bellingham for several educational events related to the publication of her latest book, "Our Grandfathers Were Braceros and We Too..." which is a historical and living testimonial to the laborers who left their homes in Mexico during WWII to do their part in the war effort and with the hope of a better life for their families. During this dignity dialogue, Rosa will participate in a panel discussion on the history of the Bracero program and the dangers of the expansion of the H2A guest worker program through proposed immigration legislation.

Everyone is welcome and Reservations are required due to limited space. RSVP here:

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSfJPO9ITs6.../viewform...>

For more information, please contact Carla Shafer at [chuckanutsandstone@gmail.com](mailto:chuckanutsandstone@gmail.com)

## **Allies Panel**

The Allies Panel will discuss issues related to welcoming the differences among us as it relates to LGBTQIA (queerness) on Sunday, August 15, 2021 via Zoom from 9-10 AM. Panelists include:

Alice Beaty, Pam Pries, Luke Arnold, Tricia Bravener, Spencer Bravener, Julie Keyes and Carla Shafer. They will answer questions of how they became allies, fears about acting as an ally beyond family, the best parts of opening up to everyone, and how their faith informs their actions. Everyone is welcome to listen in and join the conversation. For more information, please contact Carla Shafer at [chuckanutsandstone@gmail.com](mailto:chuckanutsandstone@gmail.com)



## ST. JAMES STAFF IS AT YOUR SERVICE

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas, [pastor@saintjamespres.org](mailto:pastor@saintjamespres.org)

Children & Family Ministry Director: Tracy Caruso, [tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org)

Music Director: Luke Arnold, [music@saintjamespres.org](mailto:music@saintjamespres.org)

Treasurer: Marina McLeod, [stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com](mailto:stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com)

Administrative Ministry Assistant: Sharon King, [office@saintjamespres.org](mailto: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 - Online and In-Person, Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Please wear a mask if you have not been fully vaccinated during in-person worship

Live streaming at:

<https://saintjamespres.org/live>

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

Summer Office Hours:

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**St. James Book Club** is currently reading *The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit* by Michael Finkel. We will be meeting Monday evening August 16th @ 7:00. Email [tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org) for the Zoom link.

**Work Party!** If you like swinging a hammer or wielding a rag, come have some fun. **Saturday, August 14th from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

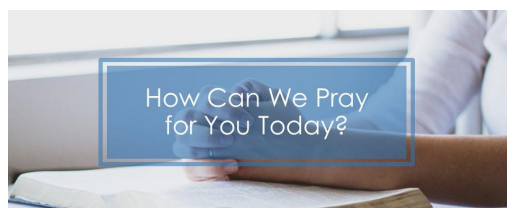
## PROGRAMS SHARING OUR FACILITY

**AA Fairhaven Group** (in building, Sundays/ Thursdays)  
**AA Men's Book Study Group** (in building, Mondays)  
**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** (in building, Tuesdays/ Thursdays)  
**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)

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

8/4	Corenia Murphy	🎂
8/5	Gary Culbertson	🎂
8/6	Tim and Wendy Crandall	💕
8/7	Jeanne Uhles	🎂
8/10	Jeff King	🎂
8/12	Wilma French	🎂
8/13	Jill Hoyt	🎂
8/13	Rick and Jean Seater	💕
8/16	Megan Pfueller Melrose	🎂
8/19	Bill Read	🎂
8/21	Dwayne and Karen Rogers	💕
8/23	McKenzie Clark	🎂
8/24	Rick Seater	🎂
8/25	Mary van der Veen	🎂
8/25	Wilma and Dale French	💕
8/26	Luke Arnold	🎂
8/28	Marilyn Monahan	🎂

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



### Deadlines for church publications

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday, 2:00pm

Weekly email: Thursday, 2:00pm

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





*Hike to Artist Point*



910 14th Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
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