



## 2022 Stewardship

2021 has been a year of continued flexibility and adaptability for the St. James community. A year ago, the finance committee, elders, and staff held onto hope as we planned simultaneously for a year of respite *and* for another “unprecedented” year. We had glimpses of both. Together we have weathered 2021 with grace, patience, and prudence.

**On behalf of the St. James Finance Committee, thank you for your stable support.**

Your gifts have bolstered our ministry, helped those in need, fostered youth faith development, and brought us together through challenging times. Great things have happened and will happen *because we know that we are in this together*, giving what we can and trusting in the God who sustains us. Your pledge will help us plan responsibly for our 2022 general operating budget.

### Stable & Thriving Leadership

It comes as no surprise that *a culture of collaboration, open communication, coherence, and hard work are vital for a healthy and thriving church staff*. Individually and collectively, the St. James Staff consistently demonstrates the skills, flexibility, joy, and humility that enable this community to live out our mission of Loving Welcome, Joyful Practice, and Compassionate Service. More than half of our General Operating Budget goes to compensating our staff appropriately for the valuable work that they do.

In 2022, we are excited to build upon the stability and health of the St. James Staff. This April will mark five years since Pastor Seth began his call in our community. Together with Tracy Caruso (Director of Children & Family Ministries), Luke Arnold (Music Director), Sharon King (Administrative Assistant), and Marina McLeod (Treasurer), Pastor Seth will work effectively and efficiently to carry out the daily ministry of St. James. We are blessed by their leadership and service.

### A Buzzing Building

In 2021, we began to see signs of physical life once again in our building. What a joy after many months of physically distancing! Looking ahead to 2022, we anticipate even more in-person meetings, events, activities, and tenant use. Aside from housing many aspects of our life together, St. James also rents space to many important community organizations, including Interfaith Coalition, Bayside Preschool, Hawthorne Learning Solutions, Boy Scouts of America, Alcoholics Anonymous, Grief Support Groups, and more! This year, payments for use of our building account for about 7% of our income. Previously, they made up about 8.5%.

When you pledge towards the St. James General Operating Fund, you help us to run and maintain an important place of worship, growth, healing, learning, and connection that is used around the clock by the greater community. In addition to the monthly expenses to keep the lights on, the heat running, and the WiFi flowing in 2021, St. James was also fortunate to have funding available from interest earned on our endowment funds for important technology upgrades to improve our continued hybrid worship and to replace siding that was in disrepair.

### Children & Youth in Action

Children and teens are on the move here at St. James! In recent years, our church has prioritized the mentoring, nurturing, and discipling of our youngest community members. At the heart of St. James’ ministry to youth is a commitment to fostering curiosity, engagement, compassion, and service. Vital to this

is Godly Play on Sunday morning. This fall we were thrilled to re-launch Godly Play after a hiatus during the pandemic. Godly Play is an imaginative and creative approach to Christian formation and spiritual guidance that supports youth ages 5-12 as they make meaning of their growing faith. Each Sunday, kids get to participate in worship and Biblical story through play, stories, practice, and conversation.

Godly Play, along with Compassion Camp, Nursery Care, Youth Group, and Service Opportunities like the Family Promise Bed Race are among the many important ways that children and youth experience belonging and purpose at St. James. Through all of these initiatives, our youth get to learn and serve alongside adults who love them and care for their well-being. Pledges help us to plan for these programs and enable us to form resilient, compassionate young people!

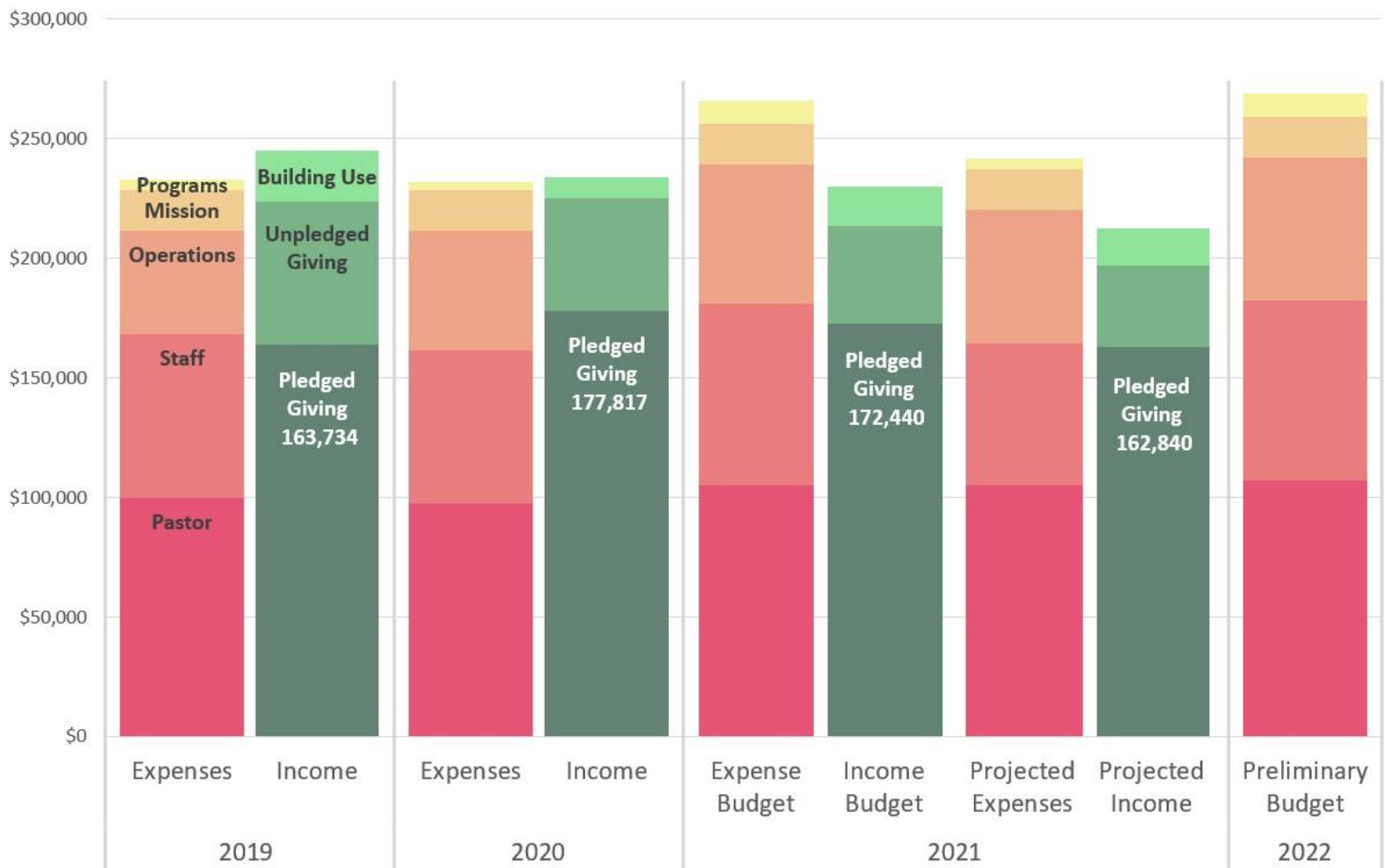
### Our Call

Your pledges and contributions make possible all of this and more. Thank you for taking time to reflect on how you will be able to support St. James' mission in 2022.

**Please consider a commitment to our pledge campaign and return your pledge form by October 31.**

Have questions? Contact our Finance Committee chair, Lindsay (lindsaynicole12@gmail.com) or our treasurer, Marina (stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com).

**Year-to-Year Budget Comparison**





*"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;  
my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.  
O Israel, hope in the Lord!  
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him there is great power to redeem."*

Psalm 130:5-7

## Pastoral Note on Stewardship

This month we reach the juncture in the year where we look back on all God has done in our life together and look forward to all that God will lead us onto in the days to come. We wait, we anticipate, we long for the redemption of the Lord to fall upon us as we weather the long winter that has been this global pandemic. We thank the Lord for faithfulness through what has felt like exile and destruction. We thank God for sustaining presence and love.

It is Stewardship season at St. James. It is time for us to discern our ability to support our church's ministries for 2022 financially. In 2021, we continued to experience disruption and change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But also, we have joined in God's redeeming action as we have reconvened our in-person worship, gathered with longtime and new members, and set about the work of forming disciples of Jesus Christ together in our gathered body. God's steadfast love has sustained and redeemed our community, and we see a bright future in store as we continue to stand together.

In your packet this year, you will find highlights about what God is doing at St. James. Our church staff is stronger than ever, functioning as a collaborative team to care for the needs of our organization and steward our resources to make an impact on each person who enters our doors. We are also strengthening our "doors" through improvements that make our building more readily hospitable to our congregation and building users. Technology updates (improved wireless networking, computer updates, cameras, and streaming tools) have connected us, helping us stay focused and prepared as we continue our hybrid-style worship on Sundays. We have enhanced our ability to offer outside groups spaces to communicate with their users online and continue their services. Finally, we all know how great it is to celebrate the re-ignition of our bustling children's programs! Our halls are filling again with little ones returning to fellowship and participating in Godly Play and other activities. God's redeeming power is at work here!

I know that this past year has impacted many of us financially. It has been difficult for some, experiencing salary and hour reductions due to business shutdowns and slowed spending. For others, investments and strategic planning have allowed us to become more financially stable amidst this time of great transition. We thank God in all circumstances, hardship and abundance, and trust that God will provide all we need regardless.

As you fill out your pledge packet this year, please consider how you can sustain and support the ministries of St. James Presbyterian with your gift. Your pledge makes it possible for us to continue building our strong staff, providing a bustling community center to our neighborhood, and developing our lively children and youth programs. Your pledge helps us plan for stability and ensures that we can faithfully participate in the redemption work God is calling us to in the year ahead.

Please fill out this packet and include your pledge for 2022 as we collectively seek the redemptive work of God together. Please return your packet by October 31, 2021, so we can prepare our budget for the upcoming year with confidence, boldness, and trust in God's mighty hand.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Seth



# 2022 Pledge Form

To submit an online version of this form instead, visit: [www.tinyurl.com/StJames2022](http://www.tinyurl.com/StJames2022)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I/We pledge the following for 2022: (select one)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ weekly (x52 weeks)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly (x12 months)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ quarterly (x4 quarters)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ total in 2022

\$\_\_\_\_\_ one-time gift (contribute now toward our 2022 budget)

Pledges are the main source of funds for everything we do at St. James. They sustain our staff, operations, missions, and other programs. Pledges also allow us to more effectively budget for the upcoming year.

I/We will contribute to life at St. James in other ways but am/are unable to make a monetary pledge at this time.

One-time or recurring contributions can be set up from a bank account or credit card through the St. James website. Select "Giving" at [saintjamespres.org](http://saintjamespres.org).

### Contact Info:

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

All contributors will receive an annual contributions statement during January that can be used for tax purposes. Semi-annual or quarterly statements are available by request. Please indicate your preferences here:

Annual statement only

Semi-annual statements

Quarterly statements

Via regular mail

Via email

To include your pledge in our annual budgeting process,  
please return this form by October 31st.

Thank you for being part of the St. James community.

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