

Greetings friends,

This past month I had the privilege to finally gather in person with my Doctor of Ministry colleagues at Cannon Beach. We spent a week together, working through course materials, getting to know each other, and sharing our project work with each other. I want to share a bit about the trip with you!

This term's coursework has focused on the "Inner Soul of the Leader." As a part of this program's focus on "leadership and spiritual formation," we begin by taking a deep look at who we are. Our individual person, our self. This is not navel-gazing but rather reflective and evaluative work that pulls back the layers of roles and duties that we fulfill in our lives. We work to unearth the more vulnerable parts of ourselves, looking back at our stories and charting the "contours" of who we are. To this end, during our retreat, we looked at self-reflective inventories like the Enneagram, Internal Family Systems theory, and the Five-Factor Personality Modeling toolkit. Each of these systems gives categories for understanding how the unique self engages in the world. If you are aware of the Meyers-Briggs (MBTI) inventory, this is familiar territory.



The end goal of our work this semester will be to craft a paper that explores our self-reflection in constructing a "Rule of Life." This rule considers the particulars of who we are and seeks to guide our growth and self-reflection going forward. It is our "why" — why do we do what we do in the world? And our "what" — what is our purpose, what are we focused on, what do we bring to God's creation as we share our gifts? I am excited to share these learnings with our congregation as they continue to emerge in me.

While in Cannon Beach, we met for meals, lectures, and small group processing times, deepening our self-awareness and relationships with others. We prayed together, practiced the Ignatian Examen each evening, and had space for silence and reflection. After spending a year looking at each other on Zoom from all points around the country (and globe), it was such a joy to be with people in "real life." I will return to Cannon Beach in February for another week of retreat with these good people.



Through all of this learning, I sense growth in my capacity as a leader. I can already feel the difference in how I step into my position as a pastor. I feel deep gratitude for the formation I am experiencing in this doctoral program already, as I know it will significantly impact how I live into my calling at St. James. Thank you for being on this journey with me. I know that it will make us all stronger together.

In closing, I'm curious: What tools or books or learnings have you participated in that have helped you understand yourself more? Is there a person in your life who has acknowledged your gifts in a way that felt true and helpful? Many years ago, an older man pulled me aside after church and told me he saw pastoral skills in me.

He wanted to encourage that in me and I'm so grateful he did. How have others done this for you? And how are you doing this for others?

When we know our true selves, we come into contact with the beloved, beautiful, image-bearing nature that God has blessed us with at our creation. I pray that we can venture deeper into these places together. I'd love to sit and chat more with you if this is a journey you would like to join in with too!

Grace and peace,



Pastor Seth

Finance Committee Update - October 2021

By Lindsay Anderson, Finance Chair

Stewardship Update

As we wrap up **Stewardship Month**, I want to extend a heartfelt *thank you* to all who have committed towards our general operating expenses in 2022. Any amount, small or large, helps our Treasurer, Finance Committee, Staff, and Elders plan appropriately for the year ahead.

As of October 23, we have received 24 pledges, totalling \$88,100! For reference, in 2021 the Saint James community pledged \$171,440. Pledged giving is the largest source of income for our General Operating Budget. We are hopeful that, through God's provision, we will meet our goals in sustaining and deepening our ministry. If you are able, it is not too late to pledge. Packets are available at the church or via email. Please contact Marina McLeod or the Sharon King in the church office to request a packet. We celebrate all of the ways we have been able to be Christ's hands and feet in this world thanks in part to how you all steward your time and your resources.

If you have any questions about your pledge or about contributions in general, please contact Marina McLeod, stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com.

Following is an update on St. James' Year-End Date General Operating Budget - *both income and expenses continue to be less than expected:*

<i>Income/Expenses as of 8/30/2021</i>	September Actual	September BUDGET	YTD Actual	YTD BUDGET
Income	\$14,080.45	\$18,719.00	\$156,616.57	\$173,873.00
Expenses	\$20,687.43	\$24,480.51	\$177,703.30	\$201,185.03

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

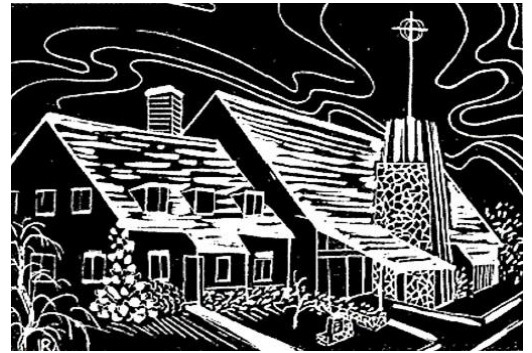
submitted by Faye Hill, Clerk of Session

Session Highlights from the Meeting on October 10, 2021:

- The St. James Session met by Zoom, with eight session members, a Deacon representative, the Church Treasurer and the Pastor present.
- Treasurer Marina McLeod presented the following financial summary from the general fund for the month of September:

Beginning balance:	-\$14,479.75
Income:	14,080.45
Expenses:	20,687.43
Ending balance:	-\$21,086.73

- Deacon Representative, Pam Gibson, reported that over 50 people attended the congregational picnic on August 1, 2021. The deacons are discussing the possibility of having the next picnic at Lake Padden during the month of July.
- The Clerk read a letter from St. Charles Presbyterian Church, New Orleans, Louisiana, to authorize the membership transfer of Amy and Casey Morriss from their church to St. James.
- Christian Faith Formation Committee is considering the possibility of an Advent Festival.
- In addition to working on the 2022 Stewardship Campaign, the Finance Committee is working to set up an improved system for collecting the offering on Sunday morning without using offering plates.
- Pastor Seth announced that six persons are planning to join St. James on October 31, 2021. Members of the session will meet with these prospective new members before they join.
- Seth will be taking time off between 10/18/21 and 10/30/21.
- The next meeting of the session will be November 14, 2021 at noon.



Interfaith Coalition Coat Drive

Thanks to you and many other community and congregation partners, we distributed over 1500 coats. Thank you for making winter warmth a reality for your neighbors in need!

CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

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



Greetings from the Director of Children and Family Ministries!

October felt like we were settling into a bit of a routine. Having the children start downstairs and then coming up for the final hymn has been working really well and giving the students more time to finish their work. They are also enjoying learning some bible verses and new songs. We will be adding a couple of new Godly Play stories this month. A huge thank you to our Godly Play volunteers! If anyone is interested in learning more about our program or becoming a Godly Play storyteller, please let Tracy know.

Our Youth group will be meeting on the first Sunday of each month at noon after worship to work on some of our upcoming projects. They will again be helping with the Interfaith Holiday Joy program to help collect gifts for families in need. Watch for more information on the Holiday Joy program to come. We hope all our youth can join us!

We have been enjoying our Sunday morning book discussion led by Jennie McLaurin of her book *Designed to Heal*. We will continue meeting Sunday mornings thru the 14th of November via the Sunday morning worship zoom link.

Faye Hill will be leading a new Bible Study for Women for this year, which is titled What My Grandmothers Taught Me. It is a rich, interesting and thoughtful study, based on the stories of the grandmothers of Jesus. Please contact Faye Hill for more information.

October was a quieter month and now we are beginning to see the ramping up of energy and activity as we make our way toward Advent. As always if you need anything or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Godly Play for November:

November 7th: The Exile and Return

In this story, the Babylonians capture Jerusalem and take God's People into exile. Even though this journey is forced upon them, they make an astonishing discovery: God is not just in one place, in the temple in Jerusalem, but also in a foreign and strange land. God's presence is not here or there, but everywhere, waiting. To be found. To find us.

November 14th: The Prophets

This story focuses on who a prophet might be and what she or he does. It also gives an overview of the Old Testament prophets, focusing on Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the 12 minor prophets.

November 21st: Jonah

This story shows the "backward prophet" doing everything wrong, yet everything comes out right except, perhaps, his own relationship with God. The story leaves us with many questions, and we are left to finish the story ourselves.

November 28th: Advent I: This lesson, along with the next three lessons, helps the children to anticipate the mystery of Christmas. In the Advent lessons we will move toward Bethlehem and arrive at the birth of Jesus and the lighting of the Christ Candle. This week's lesson focuses on the prophets.



St. James to Host Climate Justice “Net of Interdependence” Art Piece

Members of the local Multifaith Network for Climate Justice (MNCJ), including some from our own church family, have been working on a project called the Net of Interdependence, inspired by the mythic story of Indra’s net. Ragfinery, an environmentally-conscious local business, donated repurposed fabric upon which people can write prayers, intentions or blessings that are being woven together to form an interconnected net that will travel between various faith communities.

The goal is to generate conversations about our global interconnection and produce a ripple effect of caring and compassion for the Earth and all living beings. Interconnected communities contributing “threads” of commitment to climate justice is a hopeful step in the direction of positive change.

St. James is honored to be one of the early faith communities in Whatcom County to host and display the Net.

We invite you to write your prayers, intentions or blessings to add to the Net when you visit the church building before or after Sunday services or at other times during the week beginning on October 31 and continuing through November 13th... only two weeks before we pass it on, so please do not dally.

Prayers also may be emailed to nairbnosnhoj@gmail.com so that they can be included into the net. We invite and encourage collecting prayers and hopeful sentiments from anyone who may not currently be attending in person or who may not be otherwise connected to St. James' at all.

The two-week period that St. James is hosting the net coincides with the major global called COP26, the UN-sponsored climate change event taking place in Glasgow, Scotland, UK, Oct. 31-Nov. 12. Because of this alignment, we especially encourage people to write on the fabric strips to add to the Net of Interconnection their hopes and prayers focused on this major formative event!

St. James Mission and Social Action

The previously homeless families now engaged in the Family Promise program were **very thankful** for the meal kits and \$Tree gift cards prepared and delivered to them recently by members of St. James. There are currently six families living in Interfaith housing units set aside for them. The newest family of five, including three children 9, 10 and 13 had been living in their pick-up truck for months. A family of four, mom and three kids 2, 5 and 7 have just graduated from FP and are on their own in an apartment but still receive some FP support. A young couple looking forward to the birth of a new baby, any day, appreciates the safety and support of FP. A father, his two adult daughters and their toddlers are non-English speaking yet their THANK YOU’S are perfect. A hard working mom with her four teenagers is getting needed support. All of these families have a case manager, financial guidance, job search assistance, medical support and educational opportunities through the new FP/Interfaith Learning Center, which offers after school tutoring and enrichment classes.

We will have another opportunity in January to provide meal kits.

Also, we will be seeking donations of gift cards during December for Family Promise and Interfaith families. Please pray for these FP families as they are hard at work to achieve better lives. And, pray also for those who are nurturing, encouraging, teaching and supporting these families along their journey.

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

SESSION COMMITTEES

Building and Grounds (Aaron Caruso)
Christian Faith Formation (Sarah Condreay)
Finance (Lindsay Anderson)
Mission and Social Action (Carol Dellecker)
Nominating (Jenny Sue LeSchander)
Pandemic Response & Re-opening (Susan Diemont-Conwell)
Personnel (Faye Hill)
Worship (Nebiyu Tesfa and Jenny Sue LeSchander)

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.

Masks are required inside the church building, regardless of vaccination status.

Thank you!

Live streaming at:

<https://saintjamespres.org/live>

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

Fall Office Hours:

9:00am - 2:00pm, Monday - Thursday



UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB is currently reading “*Unsheltered*” by Barbara Kingsolver. “*Unsheltered*” is the compulsively readable story of two families, in two centuries, who live at the corner of Sixth and Plum in Vineland, New Jersey, navigating what seems to be the end of the world as they know it. With history as their tantalizing canvas, these characters paint a startlingly relevant portrait of life in precarious times when the foundations of the past have failed to prepare us for the future. We will be meeting Monday, November 15th at 7:00pm. Email tracy@saintjamespres.org for the Zoom link. Books are available in the church office.

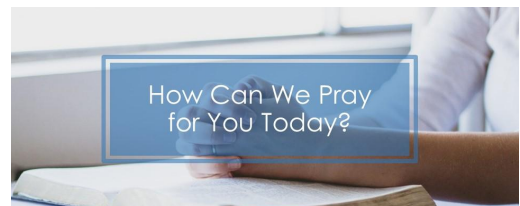
PROGRAMS SHARING OUR FACILITY

- AA Fairhaven Group (in building, Sundays/ Thursdays)
- AA Men’s Book Study Group (in building, Mondays)
- AA SOS Men’s Group (in building, Wednesdays)
- AA WITS Women’s Group (in building beginning 11/2/2021)
- Bellingham Com. Chorus
- Bellingham Ukulele Group
- Boy Scouts Troop 7 (in building, Mondays)
- Happy Hour Al-Anon (in building, Tuesdays)
- Overeaters Anonymous (in building, Saturdays)
- St. James Fitness (in building, Mondays/ 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)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

11/2	Trevor Murphy	🎂
11/3	Irene Rome	🎂
11/5	Pete Conwell	🎂
11/7	Jean Seater	🎂
11/11	David Seater	🎂
11/12	Julie Keyes	🎂
11/13	Patricia Harris	🎂
11/14	Bob and Irene Rome	💕
11/19	Nancy Wagar	🎂
11/22	Margaret deMaine	🎂
11/22	Miranda Keefe	🎂
11/22	Marilyn Madden	🎂
11/25	Marie Mellinger	🎂
11/27	Wendy Crandall	🎂
11/29	Craig Keyes	🎂
11/30	Cedric Engels	🎂

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



Deadlines for church publications
 Weekly bulletin: Wednesday, 2:00pm
 Weekly email: Thursday, 2:00pm
 Monthly “the Pulse”: the 25th, 2:00pm





*"Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name
In all the earth!" Ps. 8*



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Bellingham, WA 98225
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