

## New Life, Earth Care, and Gardening at St. James

Where does the story of the Scriptures begin?

In a garden, where God cultivates all manner of creation and calls it good.  
In a garden, where God invites humanity to participate in that cultivation work as co-laborers.

And where does the story of the Scriptures end?

In a city, where a river of life flows from the throne of God.  
In a city, where all nations and all creation are welcomed to enter through open doors and there is no more struggle.

The arc of the story of God is one of creation, welcome, and participation. From a garden to a city. And while we may think of a city as the opposite of the earth and water and light and beauty of a garden, it is actually the completion, the fulfillment of this creative, cultivation work. Through all history, God's people are called to nurture and expand the goodness of the created order. Plainly said, we're all called to be gardeners, farmers, builders, and restorers.

This month at St. James, we established a small vegetable and flower garden. The four modest fir-wood boxes, filled with rich soil, are a starting point for us. They are a glimmer of what is possible, the start of something new, and a return to our deepest roots of being sowers, growers, and cultivators. And these small plots speak to the potential of God's people to create beautiful things here and now.

One of the things I most appreciate about the community of St. James Presbyterian is our active work to make the most of the beautiful place our congregation has grown up on over these last 130+ years. We are blessed with a beautiful facility that we open up to our Fairhaven neighbors for gatherings and meetings. The footprint of our grounds, as well, is generously offered to bless our neighborhood. Our new garden is a natural extension of this generosity. As these plants grow, they will bring joy and life to the exterior of our facility. They will be an invitation for passersby to stop, savor, and be reminded of the deep roots we all share, the richness of soil, a reminder of our common belonging and shared commitment to caring for God's good earth.

I want to say a special word of thanks to Corenia Murphy for helping dream up this garden project and for guiding its launch. Corenia has a heart for cultivating community around what we create together and we will be blessed by her leadership in this. I also want to say thanks to the St. James Session, the Building & Grounds and Mission & Social Action committees, and all the folks who steward the vision of our church being a welcoming, nurturing presence in our neighborhood. This is the good life, made manifest in little sprouts growing up to yield new life among us.

Want to get involved with the garden? There is much to be done — protecting from pests, weeding, planting and replanting, harvesting, seed saving, and more. Contact Sharon in the church office ([office@saintjamespres.org](mailto:office@saintjamespres.org)) to let us know how you'd like to get involved!

In the name of the Great Gardener, the God of Creation, and the Lord of All Life, grace and peace,



Pastor Seth



## FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

### *Finding Stability in the 'In-Between'*

By Lindsay Anderson, Finance Chair

According to the calendar, it is officially spring. When in the gloomy depths of winter, I daydream about spring. In my imagination it is *always* sunny and I *never* require a big, heavy coat. As we all know, PNW reality is a bit different. Yes there is still some sunshine. Yes, some days the temperature does rise above 55. Yes, *AND*, there is also rain, mud, wind, allergies, and heavy coats. *Spring is an in-between time.*

For this month's finance committee update, I am reminding myself that *we, as a church, are in an in-between time as well.* Although our financial stability continues to remain intact, when there is a treasurer transition for any reason, it is a given that there would be an *in-between* stretch while new people learn operating procedures! Our Interim Treasurer, Sharon King, along with the Finance Committee, continues to ensure essential tasks move forward. *Together, with the grace of God, our daily ministry moves forward, despite the 'in-between-ness' of our financial operations.* I hold deep gratitude for our committee members, Pam Gibson, Jim Kosa, and Ray Dellecker, for their steady guidance!

We continue to hold Marina in our prayers while she undergoes cancer treatments.

#### **Updates, Celebrations, and Next Steps:**

- Regular deposits, accounts payable, and payroll continue as they have in the past!
- We are closing gaps in our knowledge as Sharon and the Finance Committee become even more familiar with our finance protocols and tools.
- We are consistently monitoring activity in our General Fund, Endowments, Mutual Funds, and Designated Funds. Everything continues to be generally as projected.
- Sharon is working on updating the last few months of transactions into our bookkeeping tool, Power Church. Once that is complete we'll be able to share updated financials.

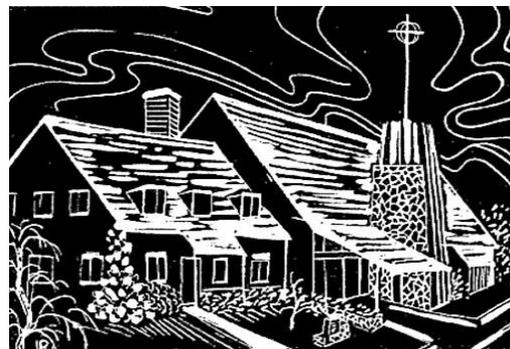
We appreciate your prayers, support, and generosity. If you have any questions about a current or past contribution, please email [stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com](mailto:stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com) or call Sharon King in the office, 360-733-1325.

With Grace,

Lindsay Anderson, Finance Chair

#### **How to Give to St. James:**

1. **Online Giving:** <https://saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving>
2. **Mail-In:** St. James Presbyterian Church, 910 14th St. Bellingham, WA 98225
3. **In-Person:** Drop your gifts in the contact-free giving box in the sanctuary.



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*submitted by Faye Hill, Clerk of Session*

### Highlights of the Session Meeting on April 10, 2022

- All members of the session were present for this in-person meeting in the Fellowship Hall at noon.
  - The Session met with members of the confirmation class, Rory Anderson and Sam King. After a warm welcome to the students, the Session was given an opportunity to ask questions of the confirmands. In turn, the students were given an opportunity to ask questions of the session. A great conversation took place.
  - Deacon Alice Beaty announced that the Sunday Morning Fellowship time will resume on May 1st.
  - The Clerk reported that Andrew McLaurin was ordained and installed to the position of Elder on March 20, 2022.
  - Aaron Caruso announced that Sam King is helping with the sound system.
  - The Session voted to designate up to \$5,000 to establish a garden on the south side of the church near the playground.
  - The Session voted to call a Meeting of the Congregation on May 1, 2022 for the purpose of electing Amy Morriss to the position of deacon.
  - The Session voted to change the date of the next meeting of the Session to May 15, 2022 because Mother's Day occurs on our regular meeting date.
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## 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!

What an amazing month April was! For me, and I'm guessing for many of you, the highlight was our amazing Easter service followed by the return of the annual Easter Egg Hunt! It was such a joy to have so many of our kids back and have our youth group helping out with the hiding. I want to give a huge Thank you to everyone who donated candy and helped with the hunt!



In Godly Play, new stories were introduced and we have begun to incorporate the Feast portion of Godly Play back into the classroom. Both were extremely welcomed by the students and show the continued return to familiarity along with great growth. We will continue our spring curriculum with all new stories!

Our youth group helped with hiding and hunting eggs and also held a really fun game night! We are looking into the feasibility of participating in the Family Promise Bed Race that has been pushed up a few months from past years.

Registration is now open for our Creation Camp Vacation Bible School being held June 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>. We are in need of volunteers so if you are able to help at all during the week or even before with preparations you can register online.

We are also super excited that after two delays we will be holding an All Church Retreat at Warm Beach Camp from August 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>. We are forming a planning committee and welcome anyone interested in helping! Please let Tracy know if you would like to help with the retreat planning.

With bringing back so many youth and children events and growing our program we are in desperate need of volunteers. Currently we need volunteers for our Godly Play program, both teaching and assisting, we need volunteers to help with youth events, and volunteers to help with Creation Camp in June. We appreciate all the donations of money and materials to our program and hope that you will also be able to give generously of your time! Please contact Tracy with any questions about any of our volunteer opportunities!

## Godly Play Schedule for May

The season of Eastertide extends Easter for six weeks and helps prepare for Pentecost. This period is a time of transition between Jesus' early ministry and the oncoming of the Holy Spirit. It is a time when the disciples, and others, began to know Jesus in a new way.

May 1<sup>st</sup> Knowing Jesus in a New Way Parts 1 & 2: Known in Absence and Known in the Breaking of the Bread

May 8<sup>th</sup> Knowing Jesus in a New Way Part 3: Known in Doubt

May 15<sup>th</sup> Knowing Jesus in a New Way Part 4: Known in the Morning

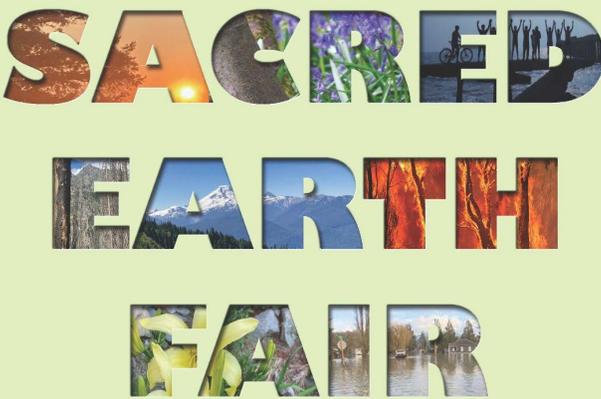
May 22<sup>nd</sup> Knowing Jesus in a New Way Part 5 & 6: Known in Making Him Known & Known in Waiting

May 29<sup>th</sup> Work Day

## MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION

Save the date for the Multifaith Network for Climate Justice's Sacred Earth Fair on July 31, 2022 from 1-5 pm. There will be booths and activities for all ages, including music by Swil Kanin, a violinist and Lummi Tribe member, storytelling, nature walks, yoga, and more! Let's join together in hope for a greener world.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the fair, please contact MNCJ at [sacredearthfair@gmail.com](mailto:sacredearthfair@gmail.com).

 <p><b>SACRED EARTH FAIR</b></p> <p><b>Sunday, July 31: 1pm - 5pm</b></p> <p><b>Joining Together for a Greener World</b></p> <p>Location: Center for Spiritual Living 2224 Yew Street Rd., Bellingham, WA</p> <p>For more information, email: <a href="mailto:sacredearthfair@gmail.com">sacredearthfair@gmail.com</a></p>  	<p><i>With</i></p> <p><b>Swil Kanim</b> <i>Violinist extraordinaire and Lummi Tribal member</i></p> <p><b>Tammy Cooper-Woodrich</b> and <b>Angela Letoi</b> <i>Nooksack Elder and Storyteller, with her daughter and understudy</i></p> <p>plus</p> <p>Community booths*, Zen Nature walks, Yoga, Children's Activities, Listening circles featuring area youth, and more*!</p> <p><i>* Watch for upcoming announcements!</i></p>
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## 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)

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## SESSION OF ST. JAMES

Lindsay Anderson

Tess Bowers

Aaron Caruso

Sarah Condreay

Susan Diemont-Conwell

Faye Hill (Clerk of Session)

Maureen Kosa

Andrew McLaurin

Nebiyu Tesfa

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## 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



<https://mlp.org/>

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## Worship Schedule - Online and In-Person, Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Live streaming at:

<https://saintjamespres.org/live>

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

Church Office Hours:

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB** is currently reading *Be Frank with Me* by Julia Clairborne Johnson. *Be Frank with Me* is a captivating and unconventional story of an unusual mother and son, and the intrepid young woman who finds herself irresistibly pulled into their unforgettable world. We will meet the third Monday in May, May 16th at 7:00pm. Email [tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto: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 Grateful Hearts Women’s Group (in building)
- AA Men’s Book Study Group (in building, Mondays)
- AA SOS Men’s Group (in building, Wednesdays)
- AA WITS Women’s Group (in building, Tuesdays)
- 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)

**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)**

## MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

5/2	Jenny Sue LeSchander	🎂
5/4	Aaron Caruso	🎂
5/6	Jim Hardin	🎂
5/14	Peter van der Veen	🎂
5/14	Sarah Condreay	🎂
5/16	Lindsay Anderson	🎂
5/25	Olivia Engels	🎂
5/29	Leslie Farris	🎂



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





Planting flowers and veggies in the new St. James Garden!



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