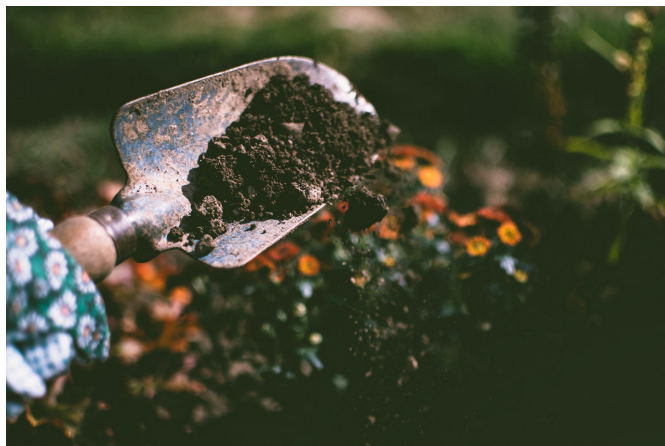


Hands in the Dirt, Feet on the Trail

Friends,

God's shalom be with you! Spring is upon us, and we feel the signs of new life busting out all around. As we enter this season of resurrection, I'm mindful of how God invites us to witness newness and hope after a long winter. Some years, the transition from Winter to Spring feels more pointed — like we've been longing to stretch out and experience God's goodness in the great outdoors, and now, that longing begins to be fulfilled.



We have some energy in our community about how we celebrate this transition. Each year, we engage in Earth Day activities as individuals and in shared action. Our Mission & Social Action Committee has designed some helpful prompts for how you might consider participating in Earth Care a bit this season. Make sure you pause in the Horizon Room during April and May to fill out a card about how you hope to honor our collective pledge to care for God's good earth this year.

The Mission & Social Action Committee recently published a Climate Action Newsletter with inspirational ideas and perspectives on how we can best care for the world as good stewards of God. You can visit our website and read it here: <http://www.saintjamespres.org/climate-action>

Along with service opportunities in our community and at home, this is also a season of planting and renewing our shared life together on the grounds and gardens of our church. Last year, we launched our St. James Filmore St. garden, with the leadership of Corenia Murphy, to bring life and produce to our community and block. We're tilling up the dirt again and hope you will make time to spend in the garden this season. Please stop by, pull some weeds, and help cultivate little starts as they come up. All are welcome to participate and are invited to make this garden our own again this year.

In addition to planting and service, we are also planning some St. James hikes to get out on the trails around Whatcom County together. Ryan Knight has invited anyone interested in brainstorming accessible, inviting excursions, an activity meant for young and old to participate in. Check in with Ryan on a Sunday morning or via email at knight.ryanp@gmail.com to get involved.

However this season of Spring and Resurrection meets you this year, I pray that you will see opportunities to connect with God's renewing love. As a community, we want to help nurture spaces where you can know that love deeply in yourself and share it with others. So many people bless our community with so many good gifts to share. May you find the blessing of newness and resurrection as we journey together.

In Christ,

Pastor Seth

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE - MAY 2023

Submitted by Sharon King

Hello friends,

You don't normally hear from me, but I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you and give you a short update. I have had the honor of filling in the gaps while Marina was going through her cancer diagnosis, treatments, and surgeries. This time gave me a great appreciation for all that Marina did in her job as treasurer and how wonderfully she took care of everything. She will be sorely missed.

In this new year, we have successfully completed the transition to new accounting software which has forced us to create different ways of processing everything. As we get these new systems in place, transition to Andrew McLaurin as our new Finance chair, and with the hiring of a new treasurer, we can assure you that financial reports will be available and tax thank you letters will be accurate. We have kept accurate records of all income and expenses and will continue to do so. And on that note, I just want to say thank you for your abundant giving and gracious patience with me as I learned everything that Marina did and performed that to the best of my ability, all while going through my own cancer journey. It's been tough at times, but I always felt the love and support of this congregation. Thank you!

In the light,
Sharon

How to Give to St. James:

Online Giving: <https://saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving>

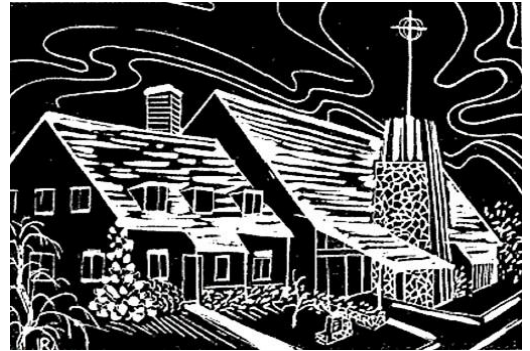
Mail-In: St. James Presbyterian Church, 910 14th St. Bellingham, WA 98225

In-Person: Drop your gifts in the contact-free giving box in the sanctuary

We appreciate your prayers, support, and generosity. If you have any questions about any current or past contributions, please email stjamestreasurer@gmail.com or call Sharon King in the office, 360-733-1325.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

submitted by Faye Hill, Clerk of Session



Session Highlights for the Meeting on March 26, 2023

- Deacon Carla Shafer brought greetings from the Board of Deacons. She reported that Amy Morriss and Merry Thomas were elected co-moderators of the Board of Deacons for the year. The annual congregational picnic will be on July 23rd.
- The Session reviewed Financial Statements of Activity for the months of January and February, 2023 that were prepared by Avlon Finances. The Session agreed that the finances look good to date.
- A resignation from the Session was received from Ryan Knight. The Nominating Committee will meet soon to select a nominee for this position.
- Jimmy Parks reported that there is increased activity within the church school. The Sunday Morning class is growing in size.
- Maureen Kosa reported that the community meal at Our Saviors Church was a great success. The committee recently did some much-needed beach clean-up.
- Teresa Bowers reported that Bingo night has been well attended. She suggested that members check the St. James Facebook page for more information about ongoing activities.
- Faye Hill reported that the Personnel Committee will be interviewing a candidate for Church Treasurer soon. Annual staff reviews will begin soon.
- Pastor Seth reported that he submitted a request for a grant from the Lily Foundation to be used for Clergy Renewal as related to his sabbatical leave. His sabbatical leave will be during the months of July, August, September and October, 2024.
- The Session voted to change the date of their next regular meeting to April 23, 2023, and to invite the Board of Deacons to meet with them at that time regarding matters of mutual concern.

Respectfully Submitted,
Faye Hill, Clerk of Session

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the Session Meeting on April 23, 2023

- The Board of Deacons and the St. James Session met together to confer on matters of mutual concern before the Session meeting. Following a wonderful lunch, the two boards discussed (1) What they most appreciate about St. James, and (2) what areas of our congregational life are most concerning and need attention. Following this discussion, the deacons and elders separated to hold their regular meetings. The following highlights refer to the meeting of the session that followed.
- All members of the Session were present for the meeting.
- Pastor Seth presented the Treasurer's Report for January 1, 2023 through April 23, 2023. The Session voted to accept the report.
- The Session was reminded that there will be no Session meeting in May and we will meet again on June 11, 2023.
- The Building and Grounds Committee announced that two work parties are scheduled soon. On May 20th the Boy Scouts will join the work party to assist with several projects. All members are invited to the work parties and there are enough jobs both inside and out for many folks. No experience is needed.
- The Session voted to forgo the internal audits of our finances for 2021 and 2022 due to the illness of our treasurer and the constraints of COVID during that time, and to continue the audit for 2023.
- The Session received the report of the Personnel Committee that Katie Dunne has been hired for the position of Church Treasurer, beginning April 21, 2023.
- The Session voted approval for Ruling Elder Fred Hartsook to serve communion at St. James on Sunday, May 7, 2023.
- The Session voted to elect Aaron Caruso to a second term as Trustee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Faye Hill, Clerk of Session

CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

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



Greetings from the Director of Children and Family Ministries!

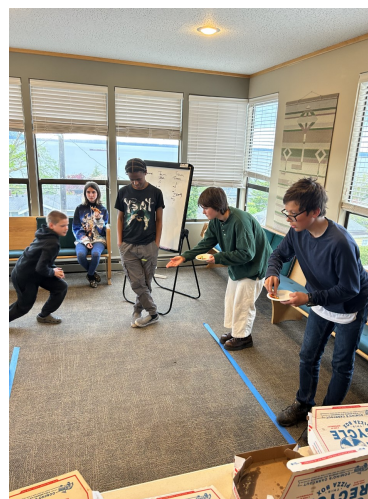
Spring has sprung! With the new season we are excited to offer many opportunities and events here at St. James! We had a busy end to winter and are looking forward to warmer weather and an even busier spring.

Our Youth Group has been meeting monthly on the last Sunday's of the month. We have had a great time full of pizza, games, and at our last meeting, a photo scavenger hunt. We will be meeting on April 30th and May 28th for game nights from 5:30-7:30. Bring your friends and favorite games and join us for a time of fun, dinner, and games! Any donation toward dinners is greatly appreciated.



Our Godly Play class finished parables and worked our way through two series in the Godly Play stories full of stories from Jesus' life. We finished those on Easter and are moving on to our spring stories, including a new story written in the Godly Play style by Tracy for Earth Day.

We had a great return of BINGO night on St. Patrick's Day! It was a great evening of potluck food, fellowship, popcorn, prizes, and BINGO. It felt great to be able to bring back a favorite St. James tradition.



We held an indoor, but still fun, Easter Egg hunt after worship on Easter. It was so great to see so many of our children and youth participating! They found about 350 eggs in roughly 10 seconds, maybe it was a bit longer, but it felt like 10 seconds.

Seth and Tracy delivered our April snacks to Lowell. We are still going to do one more delivery before the end of the school year so drop off any nut free individually wrapped snacks to Tracy's office.



On Earth Day we held a short retreat led by Coreina Murphy. We shared the impact of nature on our lives and how the rhythms of our planet are deeply woven into our own stories. We are hoping to hold another mini retreat and also get some help with the St. James gardens.

Mark your calendars for a St. James Movie Night! Join us Friday evening May 19th in the St. James fellowship hall for a TBD movie. Come at 6pm for pizza and fellowship and the movie will start at 6:30pm. Bring your favorite movie snacks to share! Let Tracy or Tess know if you are coming so we know how much pizza to order.

This summer, June 26th thru the 29th, we will again be joining with First Presbyterian Church to hold Camp Creation Vacation Bible School! Registration opened April 17th for kids entering Kindergarten through 5th grade. Join us for Godly Play stories, crafts, music, games, science projects, and more! We will also need volunteers before, during, and after camp! Let Tracy know if you are interested in registering or volunteering, or if you have any questions!

With so many youth, children, and family events coming up we are in need of volunteers to help with everything! If you have any interest in helping with Children's Ministries, even if you don't have a lot of time or can't commit to anything regularly, please let Tracy know as we have many opportunities to help! We are also looking to hire for our nursery as we will be losing Ava at the end of June. If you know of anyone who is great with children and would be a good fit, please let Tracy know.

Godly Play Schedule for April:

April 2nd - Jesus is King

April 9th - Faces of Easter VI & VII

April 16th - Easter Eggs

April 23rd - St. Francis

April 30th - Work Day

Godly Play Schedule for May

May 7th - The Good Shepherd and World Communion

May 14th - Mary

May 21st - Saul's Travels

May 28th - Pentecost



INTERFAITH COALITION

Partners in faith. Changing lives.

FAMILY PROMISE SUPPORT

St. James has been providing meal kits in partnership with our neighbors, Sacred Heart Catholic Church to assist homeless families through the national Family Promise program. The families are currently living in Interfaith Coalition individual housing units. We provide meal kits on a quarterly basis and if you are willing to provide a dinner kit for one of the families, please contact Gretchen Pfueller at gmpfueller@gmail.com. for more information. A list of needs will be available soon. Volunteers are also needed for occasional yard work at the homes as Spring has finally arrived.

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

"The more I think about it, the more I wonder if God and neighbor are somehow One." Fred Rogers

St. James Presbyterian hosted the Southside Community Meal at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 19. As Gretchen Pfueller stated, "It was a great experience to share a meal with the people in our neighborhood on the eve of Mr. Rogers' birthday." SJPC, OSLC, and HVNA (Happy Valley Neighborhood Association) all joined in this community gathering to break bread and enjoy a wonderful St. Patrick's Day Irish potato bar. Pastor Seth provided some Irish tunes on his guitar. A huge thank you to Gretchen Pfueller for coordinating all aspects of the evening. Shout outs to Gena Gustafson (and Gus), Alice Beaty, Jean Seater, Janet Oakley, Merry Thomas, Tess Bowers (Corinna and Alia, too), Ray Dellecker, Maureen Kosa, Laurie Anderson, and Seth Thomas.

MSA (Mission and Social Action) ACTIVITY

Congratulations to Sharon King whose name was drawn first! There is still time to participate! Please take an index card (located in the Narthex and/or the Horizon Room). Read over the handout titled "10 Things You Can Do to Help Save the Earth". On one side of the card, list something that you or your family is already doing. On the other side of the card pledge to try something listed from the handout. Put your name and email or phone # on your card. Leave it on the table in the Horizon Room. Once Sharon returns the puzzle, the cards will be shuffled again and one will be pulled to be the next recipient of the 1,000-piece Earth Day jigsaw puzzle! We'll keep passing it on and see how many families complete it before Earth Day, 2024! "From Big to Small, We're All Connected!"





MOVIE NIGHT!

Join us Friday evening May 19th in the St. James fellowship hall for a TBD movie. Come at 6pm for pizza and fellowship and the movie will start at 6:30pm. Bring your favorite movie snacks to share! Let Tracy or Tess know if you are coming so we know how much pizza to order.

ST JAMES WORK PARTY!

Time for spring cleaning! Join us and Boy Scouts troop 4007 on Saturday morning May 20th from 9-11 to help spruce up the beautiful landscaping and building! We will be working in the gardens as well as cleaning up the inside of the building. No experience necessary and all tools and cleaning products will be provided, along with donuts!

BELLINGHAM COMMUNITY CHORUS - SPRING CONCERT POSTPONED!

The Bellingham Community Chorus spring concert, *Folk Songs of the United States and Canada*, has been postponed to Saturday, June 3rd, 2023 at 7:00 PM and Sunday June 4th, 2023 at 3:00 PM at St. James Presbyterian Church, 910 14th St. in Bellingham. The Chorus, led by Artistic Director Eileen Brody, will present a program of songs exploring musical traditions that helped develop the North American musical landscape, from fun toe-tappers to haunting ballads. The program is suitable for all ages. Tickets are available at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yzrfmfmd>.

The Bellingham Community Chorus is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. For more than 30 years, the Chorus has provided opportunities for everyone in Bellingham, Whatcom County, and beyond to experience the joy of choral singing. There are no auditions, and all experience levels are welcome. The motto of the Chorus is "We Sing For Fun." Our next rehearsal season will start in September. Send an email to info@bellinghamcommunitychorus.org to get on our contact list so you don't miss out.

ST. JAMES TRAILMIXERS

St. James Trailmixers is a new group of folks at the church that want to get outside and enjoy God's creation and each other's company. This group is for varying hiking abilities and we have chosen four days for spring and summer to hike, walk, maybe swim and have fun. This is for kids, adults, men, women and everyone in between. ALL ARE WELCOME! Walking together in community is inherently a type of pilgrimage. Being out in this beautiful world God created is a spiritual practice. Please invite friends and family even if they are not connected to St. James or church at all.

Mark your Calendars! These are the dates and locations we will be hiking together:

Date: May 20th

Location: Whatcom Falls Park

Time/Plan: Meet at Bloedel Donovan park at **11:00 AM**, hike/walk in park for 2 hours. Optional trip to Lafeens Donuts near the park after our hike/walk.

What to Bring: Your lovely self!

**Email or call Ryan Knight if you want to carpool from the church instead of driving to Bloedel Donovan park. Contact info below.*

Date: June 17th

Location: Fragrance Lake

Time/Plan: Meet at St. James Church at **9:30 AM**. We will carpool to Larrabee. This is a 3 mile round trip and will take 2ish hours. There is swimming if the weather is nice.

What to bring: Bring swim stuff and snacks. **Bring a Discover Pass if you have one.**

Date: July 29th/30th

Location: TBD

Time/Plan: We have selected this date for a possible overnight. *Please contact Ryan if you are interested in an overnight or if you have suggestions for an overnight camping trip.* If we don't decide on an overnight trip the Trailmixer committee will select a day hike instead for the July 29th outing.

Date: August 26th

Location: Fort Casey State Park, Coupeville, WA

Time/Plan: Meet at church at **9:30 AM**. This is a full day trip to Fort Casey. This one is particularly fun for kids of all ages. Fort Casey is a really cool fort we can explore. There is a beach, lighthouse and short walks/hikes to do together. Pack lunch. Possible stop for dinner on the way home. **Bring a Discover Pass if you have one.**

Contact Ryan with any questions or suggestions.

Ryan Knight

360-798-1819

knight.ryanp@gmail.com

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: Ta Wei Tsai, music@saintjamespres.org

Treasurer: stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com

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

SESSION OF ST. JAMES

Tess Bowers

Aaron Caruso

Sarah Condreay

Faye Hill (Clerk of Session)

Maureen Kosa

Andrew McLaurin

Jimmy Parks

Nebiyu Tesfa

DEACONS

Deacons Parish 1	Merry Thomas*, Alice Bailey
Deacons Parish 2	Pam Gibson, Judy Buchan
Deacons Parish 3	Julie Keyes, Carla Shafer
Deacons Parish 4	Valerie McBeth, Claudia Allan
Deacons Parish 5	Pam Gibson, Adam Beaty
Deacons Parish 6	Kirsten Oliver, Amy Morriss*

* Deacon Co-Moderators



<https://mlp.org/>

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

BOOK CLUB

St. James book club is currently reading *When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II*, a work of historical nonfiction by Molly Guptill Manning, explores the consequences of book burning during World War II, and how a group of librarians campaigned to save these books. Copies of the book are available in the office. We will meet the third Monday in May, May 15th, at 7:00pm via zoom. Contact Tracy for the zoom link.

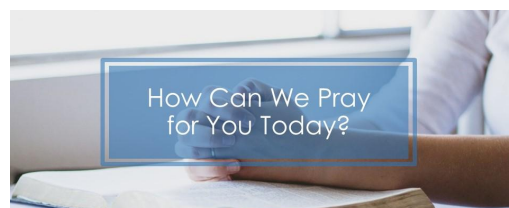
PROGRAMS SHARING OUR FACILITY

AA Fairhaven Group
 AA Grateful Hearts Women's Group
 AA Men's Book Study Group
 AA SOS Men's Group
 Bayside Co-op Preschool
 Bellingham Community Chorus
 Bellingham Ukulele Group
 Boy Scouts Troop 7
 Happy Hour Al-Anon
 Liberation Yoga
 Linda's Tai Chi
 Little Sapling Music
 Overeaters Anonymous
 St. James Fitness
 The Table Church
 Whatcom Weavers Guild

APRIL/MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

4/12	Sally Crandall	🎂
4/16	Erin Keyes	🎂
4/17	Bruce Craig	💕
4/18	Zach Mullen	🎂
4/20	Sally Albers	🎂
4/23	Mark Beaty	🎂
4/25	Valerie McBeth	🎂
4/29	Cheryl McGregor	🎂
4/30	Annah Baker	🎂
5/2	Jenny Sue LeSchander	🎂
5/4	Aaron Caruso	🎂
5/6	Jim Hardin	🎂
5/13	Bruce & Marsha Lockhart	💕
5/14	Peter van der Veen	🎂
5/14	Sarah Condreay	🎂
5/16	Lindsay Anderson	🎂

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





910 14th Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
www.saintjamespres.org
office@saintjamespres.org
(360) 733-1325