

## Seasons

*"For every time, there is a season."* Ecclesiastes 3.

I'll confess, I know I've written a note like this before (possibly multiple times). But with the change of seasons and the full bloom of Summer all around us, I'm once again drawn to reflect upon how the seasons of our days impact us and teach us about the rhythms of God's life.

Recently, I've spent a good deal of time outside. Bike rides around Bellingham, exploring Larrabee State Park (*photo on right*) and sitting beside a slow, meandering river in Central Washington. All of these outdoor places serve as markers of time to me, places I go to in hopes of remembering who I am and where and when in time and space I am.



Have you stepped back recently to consider "when" you are? As the seasons of the year change, we also notice changes in ourselves. We are changing beings, growing and shifting within our seasons of life. I've noticed this in myself as I move out of an intense period of learning and growing through more school, now able to breathe and take stock of the current "when" I am in now. I've seen it in my family as my elders age and the children around me mature.

And we notice it in our shared life together as a church. With a fresh season, new relationships begin, and old, familiar friendships rekindle and shift to new orientations. I think about our community at St. James Presbyterian and can notice immense shifts in us over the 6+ years I have been privileged to serve as Pastor.

I'm reading a great book this month on how the Christian mind understands the movement of time and the rhythms of these seasons. Author James K. A. Smith asks, "What season are we in?" How might we embrace what he calls "seasonality" to appreciate our time and station? Smith uses the example of how we eat foods in their appropriate season — berries ripening in the summer months clue me in and say "eat fresh" or can and store for the future. We do this in a particular season that calls for particular actions and duties.

Summer, for us, is a season to rest and connect. In our liturgical context, this part of our yearly cycle is a time to fill our cups with readings from the Old Testament, where we are reminded of the core stories of the Hebrew Scriptures. It is a time to pray and sing the Psalms, get in touch with our emotions, and check the status of our hearts at a time when we might have a little more capacity. We move into stories of Jesus' ministry, diving in deeper than the focused narratives of Advent, Lent, and Easter allow. We have an opportunity in this season to see the grander, wider story of God as it plays out in the Scriptures and around us.

I often feel the urge to do "the new thing," find a way to reinvent what we do in life to make it fresh and not grow stagnant. But what seasons remind me of is the opportunity we have to return, again and again, to the rhythms of growth, harvest, decay, dormancy, and renewal, year after year. Sure, we've been here before. We've reflected on these things in the past. But how does THIS "when" draw us closer to Christ? What is God teaching us this time around?

May we continue to hold one another in prayer and friendship through the seasons as the body of Christ.

Grace and peace, Pastor Seth



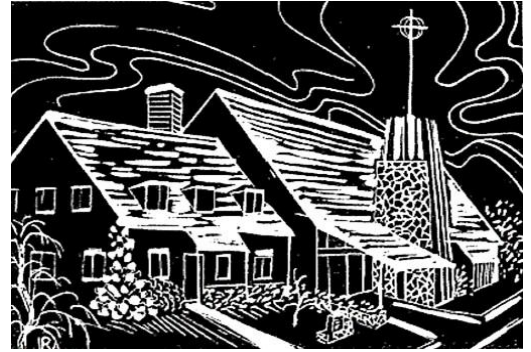
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## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*submitted by Faye Hill, Clerk of Session*

Here are the highlights for the Session Meeting on June 11

- The Session met in the Church Lounge at noon for their regular monthly meeting.
- Seven members of the Session were present.
- Judy Buchan served as the representative from the Board of Deacons. She reminded the Session of the congregational picnic at Squalicum Creek Park on July 23rd.
- The Session received and approved the Treasurer's Report from new treasurer, Katie Dunne. St. James is in good financial health.
- Building and Grounds chairperson, Aaron Caruso, reported that the Scouts were a great help with the building and grounds work party on May 20th.
- Christian Faith Formation chairperson, Jimmy Parks, reported that plans are underway for Vacation Bible School in the St. James building June 26th through June 29th. Director Tracy Caruso is working hard to put this together.
- Loving Welcome Committee chairperson, Tess Bowers, described the improvements being made on the church website and St. James FaceBook page. She expressed appreciation for the recreation hikes being planned by Ryan Knight. She reminded the Session that the Pride picnic will take place on July 8th, followed by the Pride parade on July 9th.
- The Mission Committee reported that the Pentecost offering is being received now.
- The Session voted to create a St. James Security Task Force. Sarah Condreay will be the representative from the session on the task force.



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## ST. JAMES WORK PARTY AND SKILLS LESSONS

Saturday, June 8th, we are having a joint work party and skills class! Come help keep our beautiful St. James building in good shape and also learn some easy electrical skills and tech skills! Work party and lessons start at 9am and will go until 11:30am, donuts will be provided!





## 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 June we have had! I am feeling so much energy and excitement with all our kids at St. James!

We finished up our annual Godly Play calendar in June and are taking a few weeks break until July 9th when we start our *People Who Inspire* series. We are in need of Godly Play storytellers and would love to work with anyone who is interested in helping with our Godly Play program.

Our youth group has been meeting regularly and having a blast. Our last meeting we held a corn hole tournament. We will be having an extra meeting in July to go bowling! We will meet Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> to bowl, check back for times, and then also on Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup> at the regular 5:30-7:30 time.

The Sunday before Bellingham schools let out for the summer we were able to celebrate all of our students, along with our childcare staff and Godly Play volunteers during our milestone celebration. It was amazing to see how much each student has grown over the past year! It was also so much fun to plan for over 30 children and youth who regularly attend St. James!

June ended with another AMAZING week of Vacation Bible School Camp

Creation! We had daily Godly Play stories, crafts, games, science, songs, egg challenges, pies in the face, and many armadillo sightings. So much fun, learning, love, joy, and finding God was had by all our campers! A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped before, during, and after to make this week so

successful! (See more VBS photos on pages 4- 6).

We are looking forward to the rest of summer with so many events and opportunities to get involved.



Saturday June 8th we are having a joint work party and skills class! Come help keep our beautiful St. James building in shape and also learn some easy electrical skills and tech skills! Work party and lessons start at 9am and we will go until 11:30.

We will have a table set up at Bellingham Pride, and need volunteers to be at the table on Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. Let Seth or Tracy know if you can make it!

St. James is going out to the ball game! We have tickets to see the Bellingham Bells on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. Tickets are \$13 each, see Tracy or Sharon for tickets.

We hope everyone will join us Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> for our annual all church potluck! This year we will be at Squalicum Park right after worship service. Bring your lunch and we will provide dessert.

It is shaping up to be a great summer around St. James. Let Tracy know if you have any questions or want to get involved!

Again a huge Thank You to all the wonderful volunteers at St. James who help to make so many events and programs run, especially for our children and youth. Know that your work is so valuable and appreciated!

Godly Play for July

July 2<sup>nd</sup> Work Day

July 9<sup>th</sup> Florence Nightingale

July 16<sup>th</sup> Harriet Tubman

July 23<sup>rd</sup> Mother Teresa

July 30<sup>th</sup> Martin Luther King Jr. & Rosa Parks













**BELLINGHAM PRIDE FESTIVAL**

We hope everyone will come and enjoy all the different events at this years Pride Festival on Saturday and Sunday July 8th and 9th! St. James will again be hosting a table at the Bellingham Pride Festival on Sunday July 9th, and we need volunteers to be at the table with shifts beginning at 9:45am and ending at 5:30pm. If you can help for an hour or two during that time, please let the office or Tracy know.

**NEXT SUNDAY! ST. JAMES AT THE BELLINGHAM BELLS**

St. James has a group of tickets to the Bellingham Bells baseball game on Sunday July 16th @ 1:00pm. If you would like to attend with your fellow St. James crew, tickets are \$13 each in the grandstand (shade!). Please see Tracy or Sharon if you are interested in purchasing tickets.

**St. James Presbyterian Church Picnic**

Date: July 23, 2023

Time: after church until 2 p.m.

Location: Squalicum Creek Park

Please bring your own lunch, and the

Deacons will provide dessert!

RSVP by 7/16 to your Deacon



## 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:** July 29th

**Location:** Artist Point and Bagley Lakes

**Time/Plan:** Meet at St. James Church at 9:30 AM. We will carpool to Bagley Lakes Trailhead and do a short hike there, about 1.5 miles. Then we will head up to Artist Point parking lot to enjoy some breathtaking views of the North Cascades together. We will eat lunch and do short hikes/walks from the Artist Point parking lot before returning to St. James Church in the mid afternoon. Exact end time TBD.

**What to bring:** Pack and lunch. Bring a "Northwest Forest Pass" for parking at Artist Point if you have one.



**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](mailto:knight.ryanp@gmail.com)



## **FAMILY PROMISE SUPPORT OPPORTUNITY**

The week of August 14, St. James will be providing meal kits (ingredients for specific meals) as we partner with our neighbors, Sacred Heart Catholic Church to assist homeless families living in Interfaith Coalition individual housing units. If you are willing to provide a dinner kit for one of the families, please contact Gretchen Pfueller at [gmpfueller@gmail.com](mailto:gmpfueller@gmail.com) for more information. Gretchen will have a list of needs soon. Your obligation would be to purchase ingredients for a specific meal chosen by a family and delivered to our church refrigerator on Sunday, August 13.



## ST. JAMES STAFF IS AT YOUR SERVICE

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. 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: Ta Wei Tsai, [music@saintjamespres.org](mailto:music@saintjamespres.org)

Treasurer: Katie Dunne, [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

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 *To the Bright Edge of the World*, by Eowyn Ivey. It is an atmospheric, transporting tale of adventure, love, and survival. Copies of the book are available in the office. We will meet, Monday July 17th, 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

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)

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

7/4	Carolyn Mullen	🎂
7/5	Pat Nelson	🎂
7/10	Bill Butler	🎂
7/12	Merry Thomas	🎂
7/14	Max Anderson	🎂
7/16	Dave and Pat Nelson	💕
7/16	Karen Rogers	🎂
7/20	Nebiyu Tesfa	🎂
7/21	Gretchen Pfueller	🎂
7/24	Randy and Teresa Bowers	💕
7/25	Ed Simmers	🎂
7/25	Betsy Freeman	🎂
7/29	Rory Anderson	🎂
7/29	Stacy and Seth Thomas	💕
7/31	Brian Seater	🎂



### 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](http://www.saintjamespres.org)  
[office@saintjamespres.org](mailto:office@saintjamespres.org)  
(360) 733-1325