

God is good!

As we approach the end of 2023 and look back, we can see God's faithful hand upon our lives as the community of St. James Presbyterian. It is such a joy to be in Christ's body together!

It is Stewardship season for our church. This year, we seek to continue to increase the scope of our work, reaching out to children and families, caring for the oppressed and marginalized, and making a safe space for all to gather in worship and grow together.

Please read through this packet, explore our Finance committee's overview of the campaign, and ***prayerfully consider how you will contribute financially*** through an Annual Pledge or General Offerings throughout the year. Your Pledges allow us to set our budget and plan for the good work God has for us, equipping our ministry, empowering our leaders and staff, and energizing our mission in the new year.

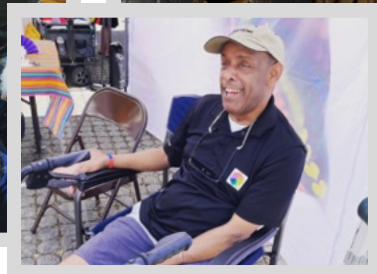
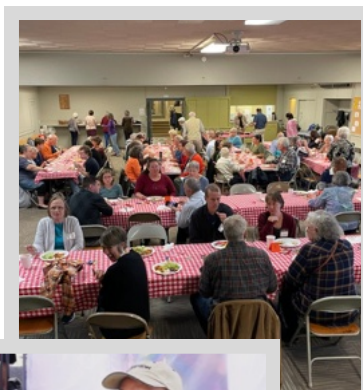
As we know, the cost of living in Whatcom County continues to increase. Washington State's minimum wage is also rising in the new year, affording more sustainable wages to those in greatest need in our area. ***Please consider adjusting your pledge this year with these increases.*** The invitation is to be faithful and generous with what God has provided us each, according to our means and ability. We need your commitment to lovingly welcoming our community to worship God and experience a transforming faith in Jesus Christ.

In this packet, you will find your 2024 Pledge Form and Time & Talents form. **Please complete both sides** and return them to the church by **November 26, 2023**.

From the photos below, we can see that God is doing great things in our church body. I pray you will consider this an opportunity to return to God in praise, the abundance God has provided for you.

In Christ,

Pastor Seth



Dear Friends,

It is with great appreciation that we launch the 2024 St. James Stewardship Campaign. As many of you know, this last year has been full of change. We continue to grieve the loss of Marina McLeod. Our reliance on her financial knowledge and leadership was evident to all involved in our church's finances. We will forever be grateful for her commitment to St. James.

We are also grateful for the heroic work that Pastor Seth and Sharon King provided during the past year. They worked hard to stay on top of our finances and keep Session fully informed. Avlon Financial continued to support us while in transition, moving our books to QuickBooks Pro. Avlon reviewed all aspects of our financial accounts to ensure we had accurate data to transfer.

In April, the Personnel Committee approved hiring Katie Dunne as our new treasurer. Katie has extensive experience with QuickBooks and has developed reporting structures for Session. Her help has been invaluable. Our most recent reports indicate that St. James is in a healthy financial position.

On behalf of the St. James Financial Committee, I thank you for your consistent support. Your gifts have allowed us to maintain our ministries and outreach activities. In 2023, we were able to support our staff with more competitive salaries and benefits.

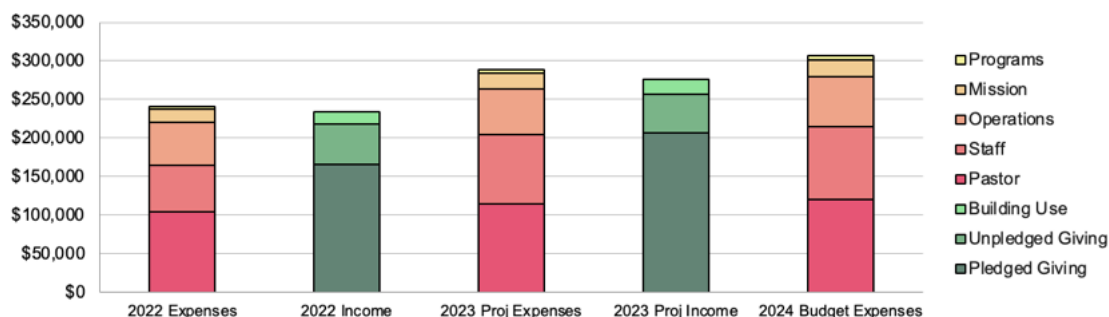
Your pledges for 2024 will allow us to plan responsibly for the coming year. As we look to 2024, we desire to maintain our stance as a place known for compassionate service—services provided by St. James extend beyond our members and regular attendees. Our outreach impacts those in need throughout our community and beyond. Your gifts not only support our church but also earth care, housing, disaster relief, racial equity initiatives, support for the LGBTQ+ community, Habitat for Humanity, Interfaith Coalition, and more.

We look forward to partnering with you in continuing God's work through our church. Together, we can make a difference in our community and our world.

Gratefully,

Andrew McLaurin, Lindsay Anderson, Pam Gibson, Ray Dellecker  
St. James Finance Committee

**Year-to-Year Budget Comparison**



Please complete and return this form by November 26, 2023 using the enclosed envelope.  
To submit an online version of this form, visit [www.tinyurl.com/StJames2024](http://www.tinyurl.com/StJames2024)

Name(s):

I/We pledge the following for 2024: (select one)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly (x 52 weeks)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly (x 12 months)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly (x 4 quarters)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ one-time gift (contribute now toward our 2024 budget)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL pledge for 2024

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 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.

### Contact Info

Mailing address:

Phone:

Email:

☐ My contact info has changed

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

All 2023 contributors will receive an annual contributions statement during January 2024 that can be used for tax purposes. Semi-annual or quarterly statements are available by request. Please indicate your preferences here:

Frequency:

☐ Annual statement only

☐ Semi-annual statements

☐ Quarterly statements

Delivery method:

☐ Regular mail

☐ Email

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



## 2024 Time & Talents Form

Hello friends. Pastor Seth here again. It can be difficult to admit our weaknesses or shortcomings, but one of the best things I've learned is to do so with boldness and humility. So, let me admit something that I know many of us can resonate with: *"I'm not good about asking for help."* Period. End of Statement.

And yet, when we ask for help, we open ourselves up to the possibilities of discovering new points of collaboration and partnership. People like to be needed, to feel like there is something purposeful and active they can do. Therefore, this year, within our Stewardship Campaign, we also ask for your help sharing your Time and Talents!

Below, you will find a list of needed roles and areas of opportunity that we have at St. James. The list is not exhaustive but casts a wide net on areas we NEED YOUR HELP. In the family of God, there is a place for everyone to participate and contribute. You have a gift to share, a skill to offer, a part to play.

Do you want to help but perhaps don't know where to start? Then listen to your heart and trust that God will lead you...and sign up!

Frederick Buechner reminds us, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." Our community needs your time and energy, imagination, and wisdom. Where does your "deep gladness" draw you to serve the "deep need" of God's church?

### Check any opportunities you can help with in 2024:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship & Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Building & Grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving as Deacon or Elder        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children & Youth         | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Support Team             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Mornings          | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Support     | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events/Memorials/Weddings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music & Worship          | <input type="checkbox"/> Mission & Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound/Video/Website/Tech          |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### Volunteer Trainings

In January and February 2024, we will host volunteer training sessions for any and all opportunities at St. James. We will help equip you! So take a step, sign up, and know that you will be supported in the journey of sharing your gifts!

Thank you for sharing your Time & Talents to St. James Presbyterian Church!