



CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

*Submitted by Tracy Caruso,
Children & Family Ministry Director*

Greetings from the Director of Children and Family Ministries!

June was all about VBS! We had an amazing week and served over 40 campers. We sang, did crafts, science experiments, games, and Godly Play stories! I want to give a huge thank you to everyone who came, participated, volunteered, donated snacks, or worked behind the scenes. All of your help made the week a HUGE success!

We have a lot more coming up this summer!

The youth group will be meeting on July 28th from 5:30-7:30 for our regular July pizza and meeting. We will also have a mission day on Saturday August 17th. Hopefully at Camp Lutherwood. Watch for emails with more details!

Godly Play for July/August

July 7th Work Day
July 14th St. Catherine of Siena
July 21st St. Julian of Norwich
July 28th St. Columba

August 4th St. Elizabeth of Portugal
August 11th St. Augustine of Hippo
August 18th Mother Teresa of Calcutta
August 25th St. Teresa of Avila





ST. JAMES SUMMER 2024 HIKES

7/13 Saturday 9:30am - 100 Acre Woods - Park at 24th and Fairhaven by the vet office, head south to get to an entrance, or start at Fairhaven Park. Trail apps recommended as there are LOTS of trail branches.

7/27 Saturday - Interurban Trail to Woodstock Farm and overlook Trail - Park at the North Chuckanut Mountain Trailhead on Chuckanut Drive. Walk the interurban to Spokane Street, follow Spokane Street across Chuckanut Drive and continue hiking

8/10 Saturday - Hertz Trail - parking lot on the north side of Lake Whatcom; walk a couple miles to the trailhead to the new connector to the Chanterelle trail; optional addition: hike up the trail with 200+ interspersed stair steps to the new overlook.

8/24 Saturday - Samish Crest trail - park at Racine trailhead on Puget Hill hike trails to the lower and/or upper viewpoint overlooking the bay, downtown and Canada. There's enough space for a group to picnic at the upper viewpoint.

Please contact Jimmy Parks for any additional information at jimmyjamesjimbo@gmail.com

ST. JAMES AT THE BELLINGHAM BELLS

St. James has a group of tickets to the Bellingham Bells baseball game on Sunday July 21st @ 1:00pm. If you would like to attend with your fellow St. James crew, tickets are \$16 each in the grandstand (shade!). Please see Tracy or Sharon if you are interested in purchasing tickets.



ALL CHURCH PICNIC!

Join us after worship on Sunday, August 18th for a potluck luncheon and fellowship. Bring your favorite dish to share and the Deacons will provide dessert!

ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB

July 15 - The St. James book club is currently reading *Where the children take us* by Zain E. Asher. In this spellbinding memoir, popular CNN anchor Zain Asher pays tribute to her mother's strength and determination to raise four successful children in the shadow of tragedy. Books are available in the church office.

We will meet the third Monday in July Monday, July 15th, at 7pm on Zoom. Email tracy@saintjamespres.org for the Zoom link.

August 19 - For August we will be reading *Solito A Memoir* by Salvadoran poet Javier Zamora follows Zamora's immigration from El Salvador to the United States when he is nine years old. Books will be available in the church office on Sunday July 28th and we will discuss it Monday August 19th at 7:00.

PASTOR SETH ON SABBATICAL

Seth will be away on sabbatical from July 1 to October 1. For pastoral support, please reach out to Randy Pries (randypries@gmail.com).

For administrative questions or to learn more about St. James, please connect with Janice Smith (janice@saintjamespres.org). As always, you can also connect with your Church Deacon or reach out to Sharon King in the office at office@saintjamespres.org.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR ST. JAMES ALL CHURCH RETREAT SEPTEMBER 6TH-8TH AT WARM BEACH CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER! THIS YEAR'S THEME IS "HEALING CONVERSATIONS".



St. James has booked the Cascadian Lodge at Warm Beach for the weekend of Friday September 6th thru Sunday the 8th 2024. We would love to have everyone join us at this beautiful facility. Warm Beach event center is a beautiful facility in Stanwood with many activities, beautiful views, and numerous hiking trails. Rooms in the lodge have a queen bed and a bunk bed to sleep up to 4. Our reservations include lodging for Friday and Saturday nights, breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Plan on arriving Friday evening after dinner to check in and enjoy a time of fellowship, games, and snacks with our St. James family. Saturday will include breakfast, a morning of Christian education, lunch, and an afternoon of relaxing and fun activities. Activities at Warm Beach include sports fields, disc golf, swimming, canoeing, mini golf, hiking, horseshoe pits, fire pits, and time for fellowship and relaxing. Saturday will conclude with dinner and an organized fellowship time. Sunday we will enjoy breakfast followed by a worship service and then packing up and heading home. Plan for a weekend of fun, fellowship, food, relaxation, and Christian education. If you are interested in helping organize, or implement this fun event, please let Tracy know. Registration link: <https://saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2385181>

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

submitted by Casey Morriss, Clerk of Session

Highlights of the Session Meeting on May 14, 2024



- Teresa Bowers, Aaron Caruso, Casey Morriss, Maureen Kosa, Jimmy Parks, Nebiyu Tesfa and Pastor Seth Thomas were present for the Session meeting on May 14, 2024 and Ralph Buchan, Andrew McLaurin and Sarah Condreay were excused as absent.
- Deacon representative Alice Bailey reported that the Deacons are updating birthday and anniversary lists and supporting members with serious health issues.
- Pastor Seth gave the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Katie Dunne:
 - o In April:
Expenditures were \$22,277
Revenue was: \$22,089
 - o Year To Date (Jan-Apr):
Expenditures were \$95,579
Revenue was: \$115,154
- Pastor Seth reported that Communion was served on May 4th and that his sabbatical grant includes funds dedicated to gifts for the staff designed to be "replenishing for their souls."
- There was extensive discussion on the plans for church support during Seth's sabbatical including:
 - o Preaching for all of the Sunday's during Seth's sabbatical has been secured.
 - o Jan Smith will be the day-to-day Operational contact
 - o Kyle Anderson will moderate Session meetings
 - o Randy Pries will provide pastoral care
- There was discussion of the need to replace the Clerk of Session and the Worship and Music Director due to the recently announced upcoming departures of Casey Morriss and Ta Wei Tsai, respectively.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

submitted by Casey Morriss, Clerk of Session

Highlights of the Session Meeting on June 10, 2024



- Andrew McLaurin, Teresa Bowers, Aaron Caruso, Sarah Condreay, Casey Morriss, Jimmy Parks, Nebiyu Tesfa and Pastor Seth Thomas were present for the Session meeting on June 10, 2024 and Sarah Condreay, Ralph Buchan and Maureen Kosa were excused as absent.
- Deacon representative Gena Gustafson reported that the Deacons are prepared to help with the celebration for Seth's sabbatical on June 30th as well as planning a picnic for later in the summer.
- Pastor Seth gave the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Katie Dunne, noting that May giving was below budget and the Finance Committee is monitoring. While YTD expenses are on track, Seth requested that Aaron Caruso move money from the endowment fund for recently incurred endowment-approved expenses.
 - o In May:
 - Expenditures were \$35,831
 - Revenue was \$15,583
 - o Year To Date (Jan-May):
 - Expenditures were \$138,207
 - Revenue was \$126,087
- The Finance committee reported that they will be reminding the congregation to continue to make pledge payments throughout the summer even as members travel out of town. They also reported that Katie Dunne will be added to the routine staff review process, and that they will be working with Building and Grounds to understand any upcoming expenditures.
- Loving Welcome reported that they will be planning a welcome back celebration for Seth on October 6th and that the committee is excited to support the restart of Trailblazers hikes.
- The nominating committee reported that they will be seeking to fill three Session Member terms that expire at the end of the year as well as four Deacon spots. The committee also noted that Carla Shafer has agreed to fill the Clerk of Session role for the rest of the year (filling the vacancy created by Casey Morriss's move to Texas).
- On behalf of the Personnel committee, Seth reported that Ta Wei's last Sunday will be July 28th and that the committee will be working with several stakeholders to interview replacement candidates.
- At the request of the Worship Committee, the Session approved the serving of communion on Seth's last Sunday (June 30). Additionally, Jimmy Parks was authorized to preside over communion during the September 1st service.
- Pastor Seth reported that he will officiate the wedding of Thomas Hull and Trent Dyken on June 29th. He also reported on the recent Presbytery approval of new minimum Terms of Call for Pastors, and some proposals that may come up in the General Assembly meeting this summer.

FINANCE UPDATE

submitted by Andrew McLaurin, Chair of Finance

As we settle into summer we are reminded of the beauty that surrounds our area. We are fortunate to live in such a wonderful place. Similarly, we are blessed to have a faithful congregation.

While our giving continues to be strong, we have noted that last month's tithing fell short of budget projections. Our YTD giving still exceeds our TYD budget largely because several annual pledges were paid in full in January. We continue to watch this closely.

Our expenses are currently below expectations which helps keep us in a positive position. With lower utility costs expected for the next few months, we expect this trend to continue.

We historically see a drop in tithing during the summer months due to vacations. This is just a gentle reminder that keeping up to date with pledges is important for our church. Information is available below on how to tithe even if you are away. Your contributions are vital to our fiscal health.

Lastly, I would like to thank Ray Dellecker for his service on the finance committee. Ray has served for a number of years and was of invaluable assistance as we transitioned to a new accounting system. He is stepping down from the committee this month. Please take a moment to thank Ray for his service.

Thank you again for your faithfulness!

Andrew

	April Actual	April budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$22,089.00	\$24,375.00	\$115,588.00	\$97,500.00
Expenses	\$22,277.00	\$27,647.00	\$95,579.00	\$110,588.00

If you have any questions regarding the finances of Saint James Presbyterian Church please feel free to contact me or Katie Dunne at stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com.

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 or Pledges:** You can mail your pledges and gifts to the church.
Saint James Presbyterian Church
910 14th Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

SIGN UP HERE FOR USHERS, COMMUNION, LECTORS & OFFERING COUNTERS

We need ushers, lectors, offering counters, and communion servers! The following links will take you to an online signup where you can sign up for Sundays that work with your schedule and receive an automatic reminder a few days before your service. If you have questions, please contact Sharon at office@saintjamespres.org.

- Usher: <https://tinyurl.com/UshersStJames>
- Lector: <https://tinyurl.com/LectorStJames>
- Offering Counters: <https://tinyurl.com/OfferingCountersStJames>
- Communion Servers: <https://tinyurl.com/CommunionServerStJames>

ST. JAMES STAFF

Pastor: Seth J. Thomas (on sabbatical 7/1-10/1)

Head of Staff: Janice Smith, janice@saintjamespres.org

Pastoral Support & Memorials: Randy Pries, randypries@gmail.com

Children & Family Director: Tracy Caruso, tracy@saintjamespres.org

Music Director: Ta Wei Tsai, music@saintjamespres.org

Treasurer: Katie Dunne, stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com

Admin: Sharon King, office@saintjamespres.org

SESSION OF ST. JAMES

Tess Bowers*
 Ralph Buchan*
 Aaron Caruso*
 Sarah Condreay
 Maureen Kosa
 Andrew McLaurin
 Casey Morriss**
 Jimmy Parks
 Nebiyu Tesfa
 Pastor Seth Thomas, Moderator

*Church Trustees

**Clerk of Session

DEACONS

Deacons Parish 1 – Merry Thomas*, Alice Bailey
 Deacons Parish 2 – Judy Buchan, Gena Gustafson
 Deacons Parish 3 – Buzz & Holly Hagshenas,
 Carla Shafer
 Deacons Parish 4 – Valerie McBeth, Claudia Allan
 Deacons Parish 5 – Pam Gibson, Julie Keyes
 Deacons Parish 6 – Kirsten Oliver, Amy Morriss*

* Deacon Co-Moderators



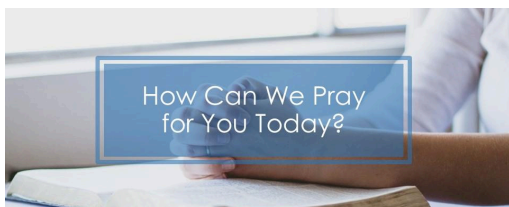
JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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	🎂
7/17	Ryan Knight	🎂
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	Ed DeVaney	🎂
6/28	Ben and Shannon Pries	💕
6/30	Claude and Faye Hill	💕
6/30	Caleb Knight	🎂

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

8/1	Casey and Amy Morriss	💕
8/4	Corenia Murphy	🎂
8/5	Gary Culbertson	🎂
8/6	Tim and Wendy Crandall	💕
8/7	Jeanne Uhles	🎂
8/10	Jeff King	🎂
8/12	Wilma French	🎂
8/13	Rick and Jean Seater	💕
8/16	Megan Pfueller Melrose	🎂
8/17	Jimmy Parks	🎂
8/17	Randy Pries	🎂
8/18	Gena Gustafson	🎂
8/19	Bill Read	🎂
8/21	Dwayne and Karen Rogers	💕
8/24	Rick Seater	🎂
8/25	Mary van der Veen	🎂
8/25	Wilma and Dale French	💕
8/26	Luke Arnold	🎂
8/28	Marilyn Monahan	🎂

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

Summer Office Hours:

10:00am - 1:00pm, Monday - Thursday