



CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

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

Greetings from the Director of Children and Family Ministries!

It is hard to believe that we are already into September. The summer of '24, while not quite as busy as last summer, has flown by with some amazing events! We kicked off summer with a full Milestone Celebration Sunday honoring our over 30 kids, youth, and young adults. June ended with an amazing Alpine Ascent Vacation Bible School, full of fun, songs, games, crafts, Godly Play, and even an appearance from last years 'Dilla from Manila, and a goodbye lunch to send our own Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas on his three month sabbatical.



St. James Trail Mixers resumed with some great hikes this summer. We had a fun trip to the Bellingham Bells for the second year in a row and hope to make that a yearly event. The youth group had a fun and productive workday at Camp Lutherwood where we worked on some projects for them and had a great time playing games and spending time together. We ended the summer with a great church picnic outside on our front lawn with lots of sun and fellowship and the following weekend held our blessing of the backpacks service.

While we had a great summer, we are also looking forward to a busy fall with some great events coming up.

Toddler Time is back! Beginning Wednesday September 4th on Wednesdays from 8:30-10:30am for ages 4yrs old and younger. Come join us in

the St. James Fellowship Hall for an open play time.

Parents have a chance to socialize with other parents and enjoy free coffee while their children play. This is a free, unstructured playtime; while it will be staffed, parents/guardians must be present at all times. We provide a few toys but feel free to bring your own to share.

We are looking forward to our **all church retreat** the 6th thru 8th of September at Warm Beach retreat and conference center.



Sunday September 15th will be our **Godly Play Kickoff Sunday**. We will celebrate the new Godly Play school year with the story in the service and an ice cream sundae bar after the service. The Godly Play classroom will also be open for exploration and information for all ages. We will be starting a new **women's bible study** for the year titled *Let Justice Roll Down: God's call to care for neighbors and all creation*, on the last Tuesday morning of each month beginning the September 24th. Please let Tracy know if you would be interested in having childcare provided for the event. If you have any questions about any of these events, please don't hesitate to contact me!

tracy@saintjamespres.org



September Godly Play Schedule

September 1st Work Day-Holiday
 September 8th Work Day-Retreat
 September 15th Godly Play Kickoff The Holy Bible
 September 22nd Creation/Falling Apart
 September 29th Ark & the Flood



FINANCE UPDATE

submitted by Andrew McLaurin, Chair of Finance

As we head into fall, preparations are already underway for our next budget year. In the next few weeks, you will receive information regarding pledges for 2025. These are crucial for budget planning as well as continuing our outreach activities. The Session encourages you to prayerfully consider your gifts to the church.

After nearly 18 months our treasurer, Katie Dunne, has resigned. We are grateful for her service to our church. She has been a great asset for us during our transition to our new accounting system. She has worked diligently to craft reports that guide session in making financial decisions. We greatly appreciate her guidance during the past 18 months. We are already recruiting candidates to fill her position. She has agreed to work with us on a transition plan to ensure that there is not a lapse in this area.

We have continued to see a dip in giving during the summer months. We anticipate that we will return to budgeted levels as summer draws to an end. Thank you for your continued support of St. James and its many outreach programs.

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:

- 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>
- 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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS - JULY 14, 2024

Submitted by, Carla Shafer, Clerk of Session

(minutes are available upon request from the church office)

- Session Meeting Moderator is Kyle Anderson while Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas is on Sabbatical through September 30, 2024.
- Session Members in 2024 as of are: Andrew McLaurin, Teresa Bowers, Aaron Caruso, Sarah Condreay, Jimmy Parks, Nebiyu Tesfa, Ralph Buchan, and Maureen Kosa, Clerk of Session Carla Shafer, elected by Session until the 2025 Annual meeting when new and vacant leadership positions will be proposed by the Nomination Committee. Casey Morriss, 2024 Clerk of Session has been transferred by his work to Houston, Texas.
- Janice Smith who fills in as Head of Staff through 9/30/2024 presented her schedule and readiness to come with a prepared sermon on short notice. She is available by phone, email, and to come and assist as needed. Her email is janice@saintjamespres.org or smith.janice077@gmail.com
- Merrie Thomas of the Deacons announced this summer's Church picnic will be held on August 18, 2024 on the church front lawn after worship. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own lunches or alternatively organize meal sharing with a small circle of friends. Deacons will provide frozen desserts
- Treasurer's Report: As of July 8, 2024 the income and expenses are tracking as expected as summer is a time of lower income and steady expenses. This is being watched closely by the Finance Committee chaired by Andrew McLaurin.
- The next regular Session meeting was scheduled for September 15, 2024 at noon.
- The Building and Grounds Committee, Chair Aaron Caruso, was approved to move ahead with two bids for repair to the rotted framing around windows on the south side of the Horizon Room, since only two contractors have responded and the project has been posted for several months.
- Jimmy Parks, Chair of the Christian Faith Formation Committee, reported that Vacation Bible School (VBS) was a great success, and the Summer Trail Mixers are developing and advertising improved.
- Maureen Kosa, Chair of Mission and Social Action, reported many people have signed up to help with the Lighthouse mission work party, cleaning and organizing.
- Nebiyu Tesfa, chair of the Nominating Committee reminded that we are searching for members to serve in available positions with the Nominating Committee, Deacons and Ruling Elders positions that are vacant. Church members are encouraged to volunteer.
- Ralph Buchan, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reported that the committee met well qualified candidates for the Music Director position, and Leah Bruno from Vancouver, BC will be hired to begin in September.
- Sarah Condreay reported that Seth is on sabbatical. He and his family are in Scotland and all is going well.
- Casey Morriss chair of the Music Committee reported that the August music providers have been identified and will be filling in. Jessica Parks has agreed to serve as Chair of the Music Committee after Casey moves.
- Our members Amy and Casey Morriss will be missed for their various wonderful contributions to our St. James community, and we wish them well in their new home in Houston.

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION

Submitted by Maureen Kosa, Chair

GUEST SPEAKING EVENT

Please join Christ the Servant Lutheran Church on 2600 Lakeway Drive in Bellingham on Sunday, September 15 at 5 pm to hear Zoughbi Zoughbi speak. Zoughbi Zoughbi is a Palestinian Peacemaker and recipient of the 2023 Carnall Peace Award. He is the founder and director of Wi'am: the Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center in Bethlehem and will be speaking on the topics of justice, peace, and reconciliation. The Wi'am Center uses both western models of conflict resolution as well as an Arabic model, Sulha. This event is being sponsored by seven local faith organizations including St. James Presbyterian. If you would like to make a donation to Zoughbi Zoughbi's organization, visit the site <https://www.alaslah.org/donate/>. If you have additional questions or would like to discuss carpooling to this event, please contact Maureen Kosa at mkosa@hotmail.com or mhkosa@gmail.com.

Palestinian Peacemaker Zoughbi Zoughbi

Sunday, September 15 @ 5:00pm
Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
2600 Lakeway Dr., Bellingham



2023 Carnall Peace Award recipient

Founder and director of Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Centre in Bethlehem

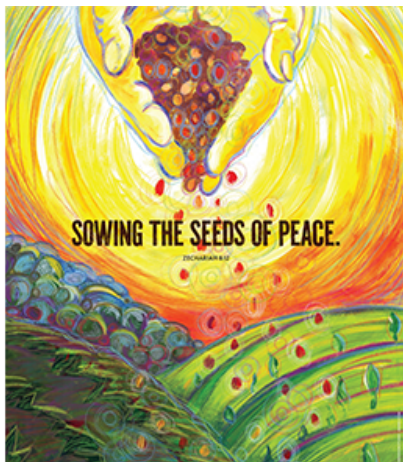
Speaker, trainer, counselor, activist on topics of justice, peace, and reconciliation

Sponsored by:

- Christ the Servant Lutheran
- First Congregational Church
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Garden Street United Methodist
- St James Presbyterian Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- Faith Lutheran Church

LIGHTHOUSE MISSION

On July 31st four members of St. James joined workers at Lighthouse Mission to help with post-construction cleaning of their new building here in Bellingham. Thank you to Kirsten Oliver, Diana Philbeck, and Gus Gustafson who joined me to mop floors in the new building. If you are interested in doing volunteer work at the mission, you may contact Bailee Barz at baileeb@thelighthousemission.org. If you are interested in touring the new building, contact Roger at Rogerb@thelighthousemission.org.



PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS - SPECIAL OFFERING

Please consider donating to the Peace and Global Witness special offering which highlights peacemaking and reconciliation. Fifty percent of this offering supports work being done across the globe, 25 percent of this offering goes to mid council to join other congregations support peacemaking in our region, and 25 percent of this offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking in our local communities. You will find an insert and envelope in your bulletin on World Communion Sunday, October 6th. You may also go to the St. James Presbyterian website and use the drop-down tab to donate online. Thank you for prayerfully considering this special offering. If you have any questions, please email me at mkosa@hotmail.com or mhkosa@gmail.com. Submitted by Maureen Kosa.

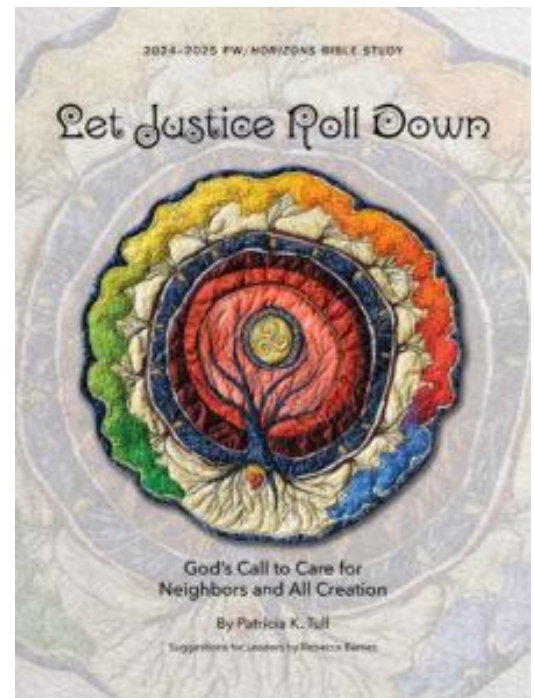
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Let Justice Roll Down

You are invited to the 2024/25 Women's Bible Study beginning on September 24th. The theme for the year is "Let Justice Roll Down" with a focus on God's call to care for the earth, neighbors and all creation.

Author Patricia K. Tull describes her call for creation justice in this way:

"When I first learned of the climate crisis, I wondered how a biblical scholar with few practical skills could help. I found my purpose in learning about ecology and teaching people of faith what I could. Such is not everyone's skillset or desire, but each of us has something to do with our hearts."



You are invited to join with other St. James women as we explore, with our hearts, God's call to care for our neighbors and for creation. We will learn about the challenges we face in this time of accelerated climate change, and the possibilities available to address or counter the impact of human-made stress on our environment. We will hear God's words to us through the scripture and will have a chance to explore and discuss the theological questions that arise from our study.

We will meet at 10:30 on the last Tuesdays of each month, except for the final lesson which will be on the third Tuesday, June 17th at 10:30. We will not have a class in December.

If you need a study book, please contact Faye Hill or Sharon in the church office.

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 IS AT YOUR SERVICE

Pastor: The Rev Dr. Seth J. Thomas, pastor@saintjamespres.org

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

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

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

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

SESSION OF ST. JAMES

Tess Bowers*
 Ralph Buchan*
 Aaron Caruso*
 Sarah Condreay
 Maureen Kosa
 Andrew McLaurin
 Carla Shafer (interim clerk**)
 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

**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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

9/6	Margaret McVie	🎂
9/6	John Sibold	🎂
9/8	John Harris	🎂
9/11	Bill and Katy Read	💕
9/12	Gracelyn Dobson (Gracie)	🎂
9/13	Aaron and Tracy Caruso	💕
9/13	Amy Morriss	🎂
9/14	Murphy "Door" Parks	🎂
9/14	Robb and Cheryl McGregor	💕
9/17	Dave Nelson	🎂
9/18	Ann Lary	🎂
9/18	Andrew and Jennie McLaurin	💕
9/19	David Anderson	🎂
9/21	Asher Thomas	🎂
9/23	Faye Hill	🎂
9/30	Phyllis Jones	🎂

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 AI-Anon
 Liberation Yoga
 Linda's Tai Chi
 Little Sapling Music
 Overeaters Anonymous
 St. James Fitness
 The Table Church
 Whatcom Weavers Guild

Deadlines for church publications

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday, 2:00pm

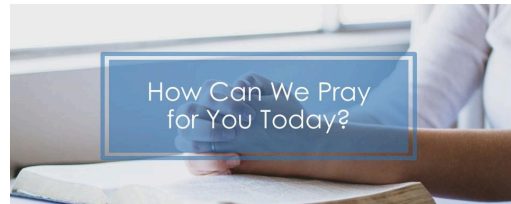
Weekly email: Thursday, 2:00pm

Monthly "the Pulse": the 25th, 2:00pm

Add your request to the St. James Prayer Chain

Contact your Deacon or St. James at:

360-733-1325 | office@saintjamespres.org



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