



## CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

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

Greetings from the Director of Children and Family Ministries!

We had a great September starting with an amazing All church Retreat that included an incredible program by Jeff King, lots of games and fellowship, a fun campfire, and a beautiful outdoor Sunday morning worship service.



We kicked off Godly Play with a story in service and an ice cream sundae bar after service. We are always looking for Godly Play volunteers so talk to Tracy if you are interested in helping with our Godly Play program in any way.

Toddler Time has returned to the fellowship hall on Wednesday mornings from 8:30-10:30 for ages four 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.

The youth group enjoyed a slightly wet, but still fun evening of pickleball, pizza, fellowship and a discussion about Deborah from Judges.

We are once again joining with Lowell Elementary school to provide snacks for children who may need them during the school day. We are asking for donations of individually wrapped nut-free snacks. Items can be left in the tub in the narthex or outside Tracy's office. This will be an ongoing need until the school year ends next June. Our goal is 100 snacks/month.

Lowell is also in need of mentors and volunteers to read with children at the school. Please contact [tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org) if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering.

Looking forward into October we are looking forward to welcoming our Pastor Seth Thomas and family back from sabbatical with a catered lunch following worship on Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will all join us!

On Friday October 18<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a pizza and game night in the fellowship hall from 6-8. Bring your favorite board games, some sides or snacks to share and prepare for a fun night of pizza and games.

We are looking forward to a busy fall around St. James and having Seth back with us!



## October Godly Play Schedule

October 6<sup>th</sup> The Great Family

October 13<sup>th</sup> The Exodus

October 20<sup>th</sup> The 10 Best Ways

October 27<sup>th</sup> The Ark and the Tent/The Ark and the Temple



## 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

*(This is the same article that appeared in the September 2024 Pulse. The budget snapshot is new)*

	August Actual	August budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$17,020.00	\$22,500.00	\$168,071.00	\$180,000.00
Expenses	\$22,581.00	\$27,647.00	\$217,225.00	\$222,843.00

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](mailto: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 - SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

*Submitted by, Carla Shafer, Clerk Pro-Tem*

(minutes are available upon request from the church office)

- Jimmy Parks reported for the Christian Faith Formation that the fall education program has been initiated as planned and the Church Retreat was successfully carried out. Tracy is filling 2 teacher vacancies which occurred due to schedule changes.
- Ralph Buchan reported for the Personnel Committee that an Ad for a new Treasurer has been posted, review will begin this week and finalists will meet with the Finance and Personnel Committee soon.
- Tess Bowers reported there will be a meeting 9/23/34. Its primary focus is the Advent Celebration.
- Maureen Kosa reported that the Mission Committee met and decided to develop a survey for congregation members about SJPC giving querying who we give to, what concerns they have about unmet needs, and where their interests lie in community mission/social action volunteering. She reminded about how many non-profit fund-raising events are being held this fall and winter.
- The Nominating Committee has 3 members and needs 4 more. One one-year term and three 3-year terms. A congregational meeting will be held on October 13, 2024 to fill vacant positions on the Nominating Committee.
- Ralph Buchan reported that the Personnel committee is reviewing and updating job descriptions, and Personnel Review conversations will begin in November.
- Sarah Condreay reminded that the October 6<sup>th</sup> luncheon to Welcome Seth will be catered by Fred Hartsook. It will be in the Fellowship Hall and everyone is welcome.
- Our church's Safety process is under development. Currently, we have people in the Narthex during worship who do a walk through at least once during worship. The back doors are locked from the outside and the upstairs doors provide Sunday morning access. If members have questions or concerns, please let the church office know.
- Session members were reminded to prepare budget information for the pledge drive for Church operations in 2025. As of 8/30/24, income and operating expenses are on track. 94% giving has been received and 25% of the year is left. Significant capital expenses for repairs to the Horizon Room will come out of investment earnings which have not yet been transferred.
- Aaron Caruso reported for Building and Grounds that Chris, an outdoor unhoused visitor to our building for many years, has left Bellingham and the raccoons have left. The issue appears resolved. The session expressed their appreciation to the staff and volunteers for how well and persistently they have taken care of the situation. The Horizon Room repairs have been completed. There are a few finishing touches.
- Aaron reminded that some church jobs need new volunteers (like parking sign placements and more). A list will be compiled so members will be able to volunteer to take on the tasks.



## MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION

*Submitted by Maureen Kosa, Chair*



### 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](mailto:mkosa@hotmail.com) or [mhkosa@gmail.com](mailto: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.

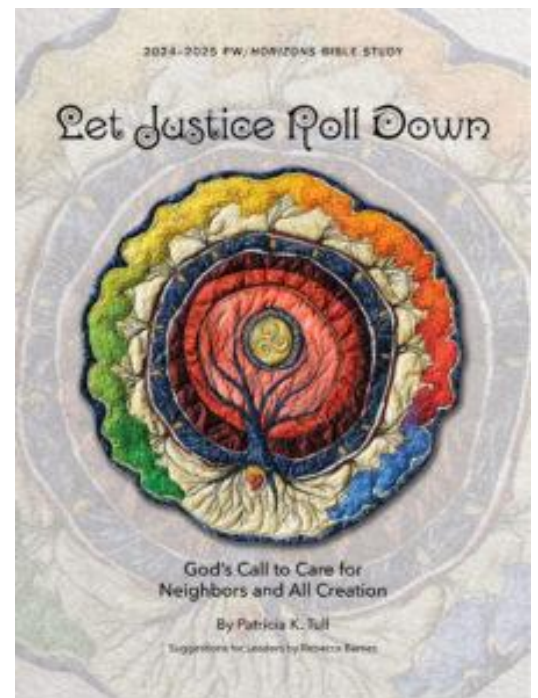
Author Patricia K. Tull describes her call for creation justice in this way:

"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.



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## 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](mailto: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>
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## 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\*  
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

Church Office Hours:  
9:00am - 2:00pm, Monday - Thursday

## Worship Schedule - Online and In-Person, Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Live streaming at:

<https://saintjamespres.org/live>

<https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/>

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

10/1	Laurie Anderson	🎂
10/2	Alyson Storrs	🎂
10/4	Lance Melrose	🎂
10/7	Aubrey Caruso	🎂
10/9	Andrew McLaurin	🎂
10/11	Carla Shafer	🎂
10/12	Christian Beaty	🎂
10/21	Jessica Parks	🎂
10/24	Claude Hill	🎂
10/24	Sean Keyes	🎂
10/24	Shannon Pries	🎂
10/28	Ezra May Moody	🎂
10/31	Selina Baker	🎂

**PROGRAMS SHARING OUR FACILITY**

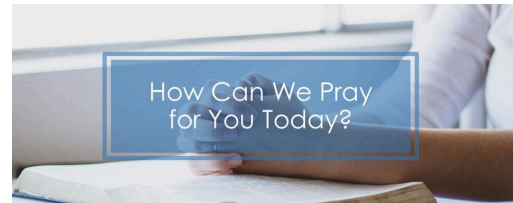
AA Fairhaven Group  
 AA Grateful Hearts Women's Group  
 AA Men's Book Study Group  
 AA SOS Men's Group  
 AA Meditation Group  
 Bayside Co-op Preschool  
 Bellingham Community Chorus  
 Bellingham Ukulele Group  
 Boy Scouts Troop 7  
 Happy Hour Al-Anon  
 Liberation Yoga  
 Linda's Tai Chi  
 Little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

**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](mailto:office@saintjamespres.org)**





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