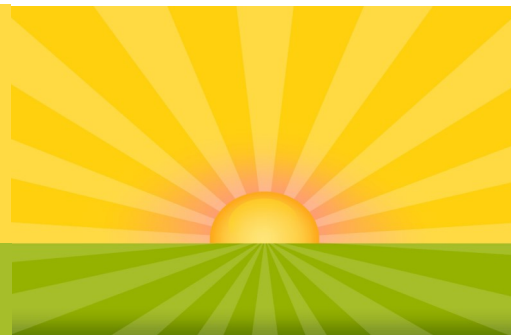


St. James Lutheran Church

Newsletter December 2023

1315 SW Park Ave, Portland OR 97201 | www.stjamespdx.org



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. JAMES

December 3: 1st Sunday of Advent

Pastor David returns with thanks

9:30am Eucharist

Sermon: "Filling Advent's Empty Spaces"

December 10: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Selections from Handel's "Messiah"

9:30am Eucharist

Sermon: "The Advent Promise of Comfort"

December 17: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Blessing our gifts for our Refugee Family & Lucia Bride Festival

9:30am Eucharist

Sermon: "The Advent Question"

10:45am Scandinavian Coffee Hour

4:50pm Christmas Jazz Vespers

6pm December Artist Reception

December 24: 4th Sunday of Advent

Carols and Eucharist

9:30am Eucharist

Sermon: "Pregnant With Hope"

The Nativity of Our Lord

4:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

10:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 31: 1st Sunday of Christmas

Cookies and Carols Festival

9:30am Eucharist

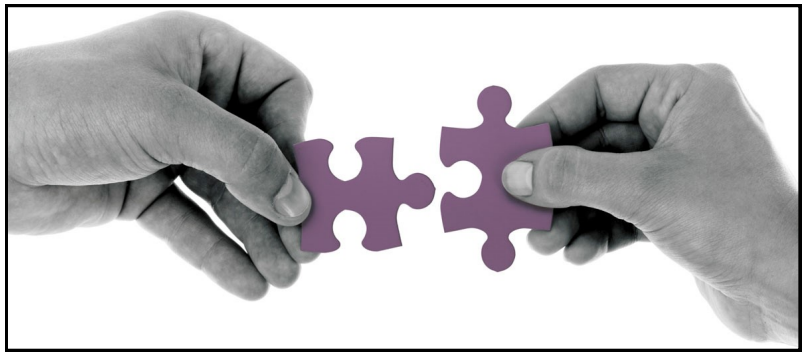
Sermon: "Rebuild the Ancient Ruins"

Happy New Year!



From the Pastor's Desk...

On November 19, at 5:30am, I listened with interest as St. James member Stephen Portnoy skillfully solved the National Public Radio Sunday on-air puzzle by acoustically fashioning the name of the English town Stratford-upon-Avon. Puzzlemaster Will Shortz was impressed.



Advent is another puzzle. This four-week season (December 3 - 24) offers us heart-clues to the mystery of Jesus' Christmas birth. With pregnant Mary, the Christ will be formed and shaped inside of us all. What spiritual new-life are we expecting? What is God birthing in us?

Then on each Sunday in 2024, we will follow The Gospel of Mark, which contains 16 short chapters that read like a mystery novel asking "Who is this Jesus for us?" Each week we get another hint about God's gift. But there will be no time for standing around. Mark's tale is nicknamed the "The Gospel of Immediacy" using the Greek word "Etheos" (immediately) over 40 times. Here, Jesus is always on the move; insistent on finding a place for each puzzle piece.

Just back from sabbatical, I look forward to exploring this divine puzzle with you. Stephen Portnoy has led the way!

-Pastor David

Sabbatical Appreciation from Pastor David

"With a grateful heart I return to the St. James pulpit this month. I am appreciative of your gift of two months of a three month sabbatical you generously granted me. I'm also thankful for all who provided leadership during my absence.

I was able to reconnect with family, rest, and spend 52 days traveling in Europe and North Africa following some of St. Paul's journeys and exploring ancient sites. Unfortunately I was unable to visit Egypt due to the Hamas/Israeli war. I look forward to our ministry together as the new Church Year begins on December 3."

-Pastor David

December Open Space

Join us this month for a series of Advent and Christmas themed Open Space sessions.
All are welcome!

Sunday, December 3: All Creation Sings with Colin Stave.

Sunday, December 10: The Christmas Story told by the Old Masters with Paula Carlson

Sunday, December 17: Scandinavian Coffee Hour

Sunday, December 24: No Open Space

Sunday, December 31: Cookies and Carols

St. James Giving Tree: Zada Family

"We are adopting the Zada family again this year for the Christmas season. Jane Lloyd and I have been spending time with them over the past year and we have gotten to know the children. They are a delight! The three girls are all in school and tend to wear pants and shirts or blouses, but they also love pretty dresses! Their younger brother, Mohammad Ali, is a typical little guy with a great love of dinosaurs. The three girls all enjoy art projects, drawing, coloring, etc. but nothing too messy, like paint. The family welcomes gift cards. The children seem to constantly outgrow their shoes, and a gift card to Target or Fred Meyer would give the parents the opportunity to make sure they are getting the right size.



If you would like to purchase a gift for the Zada family, go to this link: <https://tinyurl.com/zadafamily2023>. If you purchase a gift, please wrap it and leave it at the church by **Sunday, December 17**.

If you have questions, please feel free to ask me on a Sunday morning or email Elsa in the front office at office@stjamespdx.org. Thank you."

-Cathie Coffman

Calling All Scandia Bakers!

Do you have a favorite Scandinavian treat you'd like to share? The Scandinavian Coffee hour will follow service on **Sunday, December 17**. The Tohlens and Shirley Roggen will host the event, but welcome all Scandinavians (and Scandinavian wanna-bes) to don their Christmas apparel, donate any special goodies, and make merry with a tiny bit of traditional glögg, served judiciously by Charlie Tohlen. Hope to see you there. God Jul!



St. James Child Development Center

This past month, we were glad to help some of our alumni families with childcare while their children were out of Portland Public Schools due to the strike. Preschool and kindergarten teachers appreciated the "big kid" helpers, and it was fun to connect with our old friends. Recently, several classes walked to Pioneer Square to welcome the arrival of the holiday tree and Kindergarten was able to venture over to the Portland

Fire and Rescue Belmont Fire House, where they took in a wonderful fire safety training.

-Patrick Earnest, CDC Director

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December 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless | 2 9am Decorate the Sanctuary 9:30am Art Group 9:30am Contemplative Prayer (Zoom) |
| 3 <u>1st Sunday of Advent</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:45am Open Space 12:30pm Theater Group | 4 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 7pm Theater Group | 5 8am Preschool CDC 10am Food Boxing 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 7pm Book Club | 6 8am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Houseless | 7 8am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11am Coffee & Connection 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 7pm Theater Group (downstairs) 7:15pm Choir | 8 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless | 9 |
| 10 <u>2nd Sunday of Advent</u> <i>Messiah Sunday</i> 9:30am Eucharist 10:45am Open Space 12:30pm Theater Group | 11 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 7pm Theater Group | 12 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 11:30am Docent Lunch (Pioneer Chapel) | 13 8am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Houseless | 14 8am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 7pm Theater Group (downstairs) 7:15pm Choir | 15 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless | 16 9:30am Contemplative Prayer (Zoom) |
| 17 <u>3rd Sunday of Advent</u> <i>Lucia Bride</i> 9:30am Eucharist 10:45am Scandinavian Coffee Hour 12:30pm Theater Group 4:50pm Jazz Vespers 6pm Artist Reception | 18 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 7pm Theater Group | 19 8am Preschool CDC 10am Food Boxing 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 7pm Council Meeting | 20 8am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Houseless | 21 8am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11am Coffee & Connection 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 7pm Theater Group (downstairs) 7:15pm Choir | 22 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless | 23 |
| 24 <u>4th Sunday of Advent</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:45am Coffee Hour <u>Nativity of Our Lord</u> 4:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight | 25 Christmas Day Winter Break | 26 Winter Break 11:30am Feeding the Houseless | 27 Winter Break 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Houseless | 28 Winter Break 11:30am Feeding the Houseless | 29 Winter Break 11:30am Feeding the Houseless | 30 |
| 31 <u>1st Sunday of Christmas</u> <i>Cookies & Carols</i> 9:30am Eucharist | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

St. James Ministries and Group



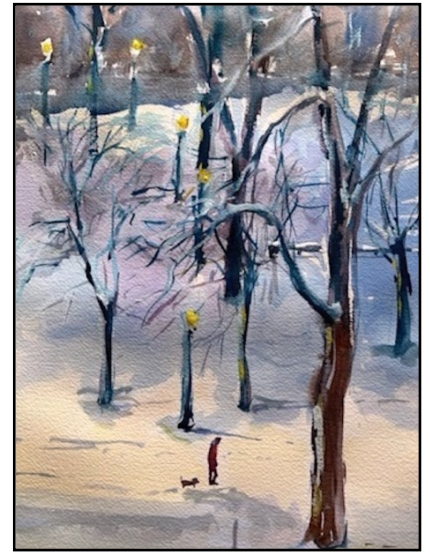
December 17 Jazz Vespers featuring Marilyn Keller, vocals

This month's featured artist is Marilyn Keller. Marilyn has performed at St. James several times, and is featured on our first Jazz Vespers CD, "Come Sunday" (currently out of print). Marilyn is a 2016 Jazz Society of Oregon Hall of Fame Inductee, and 38-year veteran of music and stage performance in Jazz, Gospel, R&B, Pop, Blues, and theater, nationally and internationally.

Join us on **Sunday, December 17** for a night of great music. Marilyn will be joined by our St. James house band with Laurent Nickel on bass, Tim Rap on drums, Mike Horsfall on piano, and Valarie Brown serving as cantor. **Pre-Vespers music begins at 4:50pm. Freewill offering. Artist reception to follow.**

St. James Visual Arts Group: December Group Show

The Visual Arts Group invites all members of St. James to exhibit their original art for December. Paintings, drawings, prints, fiber art and anything ready for hanging on our wall is welcome. The show will go up on Saturday December 2 at 9:30am so make sure we have your work by that date. You can leave it in the office or drop it off between 9 - 9:30am on Saturday morning. Please include the following information: your name, title of your work if there is one, medium used, and price if your are selling it. If not, you may just put NFS on it. Please contact Paula Carlson if you have any questions. An artist reception will be held on **Sunday, December 17 at 6pm**. Our group will also be selling cards on Sunday mornings during coffee hour— 20% of sales go toward supporting the St. James Visual Arts Group.



A Walk in the Park
by Paula Carlson

St. James Book Club

Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, December 5**. They will discuss Mitch Albom's *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*. Contact Linda Rickert if you would like to join.



Helping the Unsheltered with Food Boxes and Winter Coats

Due to your generous financial gifts to the "Pastor's Discretionary Fund" we have purchased two-dozen warm coats for our houseless neighbors. We will distribute them this month along with warm socks and other needed items. We continue to provide food boxes 5 days a week at 11:30am to those in need who gather in the park, just steps from our St. James doors. This month we will gather to prepare food boxes on **Tuesdays, December 5 and 19 at 10am in Pioneer Chapel**.

January 14, 2024 St. James Wine Tasting Event.

We're looking forward to a wine tasting at St. James on January 14 courtesy of Barry Rogge. More information will be available in the January Newsletter.

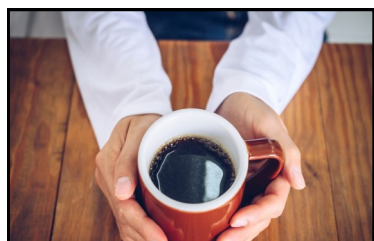


Caring For Creation

From *The Washington Post*, "In Maine, a return of tribal land shows how conservation can succeed," November 1, 2023.

"The Penobscot Nation's record of caring for nature while still using it—hunting moose and duck while keeping their populations steady, selectively harvesting timber to preserve forests and restoring rivers to support fisheries—inspired an effort to return a 31,000-acre tract of forested land to tribal ownership. Late last year, the Trust for Public Land, a conservation group, bought the parcel from an industrial timber company, and today it announced it will give the land to the tribe once it pays off \$32 million in loans... 'The land is close to Mount Katahdin, sacred in Penobscot tradition, and to an 87,000-acre national monument created in 2016 in the North woods of Maine. It contains 53 miles of streams in the watershed of the Penobscot River, which has been for the tribe a central highway and a source of food and water. The transfer is part of a movement to return lands to Indigenous stewardship and to work with tribal communities to protect biodiversity. The hope is both to restore justice for tribes that were long ago stripped of their ancestral homeland and to learn from long-standing Indigenous practices new ways to save a beleaguered planet.'"

-submitted by Doris Nielsen



Coffee and Connection

The Coffee and Connection group will meet on Thursday

December 7 at 11am. Join us as we walk over to the Oregon Historical Society. At noon there is a special concert featuring the Minidoka Swing Band. The Minidoka Swing Band remembers the Japanese Americans who were interned behind barbed wire during

World War II. The band consists of 19 musicians, three of whom were incarcerated during WWII. Entrance is free to anyone living in Multnomah County. We will meet again on **Thursday, December 21 at 11am in the library.** Bring some Christmas goodies to exchange with your friends. If you don't have any, no problem, come anyway!

December Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate Sale

Welca will be in the Pioneer Chapel following service on **Sunday, December 3.** Come to the December Fair Trade table for all your Christmas coffee and chocolate needs. See you there!

Contemplative Prayer

The Contemplative Prayer group will meet on **Saturdays, December 2 and 16 at 9:30am on Zoom.** Contact Sue McBerry for the link. All are welcome.



E-GIVING IS LIVE AT ST. JAMES!

Open the camera on your smartphone and direct it to the image to the left. It will take you to the e-giving page: stjamespdx.org/e-giving. You can also access the page from any internet enabled device (desktop/laptop computer, tablet, phone, etc.). **You can also give using the Vanco Mobile app.** If you have issues accessing your account in the new app contact Karin at karinh@stjamespdx.org.



In Our Prayers

We ask God's healing for Sandra Arbaugh, Joel Davis, Rose Clementi, Dave Brown, Bruce Richards, Gavin Morisada, Paul Matson, Amy Manning, Barbara Roady, Gail Koester, and Lynda Strand.

December Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Stephen Portnoy | 12/2 | Carol Auger | 12/24 |
| Bob Grover | 12/5 | Bill Metz | 12/24 |
| John Nelson | 12/5 | Dick Wegner | 12/25 |
| Melissa Driscoll | 12/12 | Jared Tormohlen | 12/27 |
| Linda Larsen | 12/16 | Noah Jacuinde | 12/30 |
| Gail Koester | 12/20 | Margaret Eickmann | 12/31 |
| Erin Reamer | 12/21 | Jocelyn Garcia | 12/31 |

Sunday Refreshment Hosts and Altar Flower Sponsors

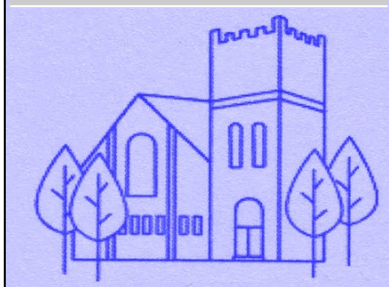
COFFEE HOUR: Will you sponsor a Sunday coffee hour? Coffee hours help to build community and connections in our congregation. We always appreciate contributions. It's an easy and a fun way to get to know members. **FLOWERS:** If you would like to contribute flowers to Sunday Worship, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the hallway. Another option for those short on time would be to provide flowers or cash to Judith Smith, who is happy to arrange a bouquet on your behalf!

COFFEE

FLOWERS

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| December 3 | Charlotte Cook | Don & Doris Nielsen |
| December 10 | Susan Gallagher & Ron Zellar | Marsha Gulick |
| December 17 | Scandinavian Coffee Hour | Don & Doris Nielsen |
| December 24 | OPEN | Don & Doris Nielsen |
| December 31 | Charlotte Cook | Don & Doris Nielsen |

*St. James shares God's inclusive and
eternal love with everyone*



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STAFF

Full Time:

David Knapp, Pastor

Patrick Earnest, Director, Child Dev. Center

Part Time:

Karin Hatch, Parish Administrator

Sharon Kurtz, Bookkeeper

Elsa Dougherty, Administrative Assistant

Colin Stave, Director of Music Ministry

Mike Horsfall, Director of Jazz Ministry

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Carl Cottingham, President

Kathleen McDonald, Vice President

Esther Portnoy, Secretary

David Scott, Treasurer

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