



St. James Lutheran Church

"In the City for Good"

February at St. James

Sunday, February 4

9:30am Eucharist

11am Open Space: *Bonhoeffer: Faith Under Fire*

Sunday, February 11

9:30am Eucharist

10:45am Coffee Hour

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday

Noon Eucharist

Sunday, February 18

9:30am Eucharist

11am Open Space: *The Creative Spirit* with Monica Setziol

4:50pm Jazz Vespers featuring John Moak, trombone

6pm Artist Reception

Wednesday, February 21

Noon Eucharist

12:45pm Bible Study: *From Jesus to Constantine*

Sunday, February 25

9:30am Eucharist

11am Wine Tasting

Wednesday, February 28

Noon Eucharist

12:45pm Bible Study: *From Jesus to Constantine*

February 2024 Newsletter

Worship & Learning

In-person: Eucharist

Sundays at 9:30am

Sunday School at 11:00am

Online: Live video
available Sunday mornings
www.bit.ly/2MzdcxX

St. James February Jazz Vespers

February 18, 2024

John Moak, trombone

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"Elton John Played His Final Concert"

-American Songwriter magazine

Seven rock bands played their "final" concert last year. Among them were Aerosmith, the Eagles, and Elton John. Except "final" evidently now means "endless." They keep performing!

One of our Lutheran scholars explored the biblical readings for our upcoming season of Lent (**February 14 – March 28**) and likened them to Jesus's final ministry tour featuring his "greatest hits of righteousness." The stories highlight:

- Jesus's temptation in the wilderness
- Jesus overturning the money-changers tables
- Jesus's promise, "Where I am, there you will be also"

At St. James, we will take this final "ministry tour" with Jesus and recognize our lives reflected in his. We too will feel temptation. We too will get angry at our money-oriented society. And we too will cling to Jesus' promise of constant presence. That is the journey we will take together.

The good news is, like those aging rock star bands, our journey will be endless and eternal. We call it Easter.

-Pastor David

Pastor Brocker Will Lead Worship and Open Space

Pastor Mark Brocker will lead us in worship on **Sunday, February 4**. He will also present at Open Space with a series titled, **Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Faith Under Fire**. Regarding the series, Pastor Brocker writes,

"Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor and scholar, was executed by the Nazis on April 9, 1945 for his role in a plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler. Bonhoeffer's life and writings teach us a great deal about what it means to be a faithful witness under fire. What we learn from Bonhoeffer is that there is no formula for being a faithful witness, especially in the most difficult circumstances."



Ash Wednesday

Join us for our Noon Eucharist Ash Wednesday service on **Wednesday, February 14**.

Wednesday Noon Eucharist and Church History

We return to Pioneer Chapel for this mid-week service and study on **Wednesday, February 21** at noon. After the 30 minute Eucharist service we will gather for Pastor David's discussion on the book, *From Jesus to Constantine: A History of Early Christianity*. How was the Bible compiled? Where did we get the creeds? How did a small group of Jesus's disciples become a worldwide church of 2 billion? Join us.



February 25 St. James Wine Tasting

The winemaker needs more time than Jesus did to make water into wine. The process takes place annually in the vineyards of the Willamette Valley when water makes its way into grapes which eventually become wine. It only takes a little longer. You can learn more about the mysterious and elegant characteristics of well-crafted wine on **Sunday, February 25** in the Pioneer Chapel when

Archery Summit Winery will be sponsoring a wine tasting event following 9:30am worship. Non-alcoholic beverages will also be available. There is a **\$10 suggested donation**. Proceeds will be donated to Lutheran World Relief.

New Members To Be Welcomed

On **Sunday, March 3** we will receive new members into our St. James family. They will be introduced that day and a welcoming reception will follow. In 2023 we welcomed 18 new members. If you too would like to make St. James your spiritual home, please see Pastor David.



Spring Bach Cantata Vespers

Mark your calendars for our Bach Cantata Vespers service on **Sunday, April 28 at 5pm**. The service will feature the St. James Choir, guest singers, soloists, organ, and orchestra. Please join us for the service, which will be followed by a reception in Pioneer Chapel. We look forward to seeing you there!

Helping the Unsheltered with Food Boxes

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. Join us on **Tuesdays, February 6 and 20 at 10am in Pioneer Chapel** to pack food boxes for our houseless neighbors.



St. James Annual Meeting – held January 21

On Sunday, January 21 we held our Annual Meeting. Minutes from the meeting can be found on **page 5** of this newsletter. Below are some highlights:

- Gratitude given to our elected leaders – especially Kathleen McDonald and Carl Cottingham
- Newly elected to Council: Matt Duskin, Gretchen Rodgers, and Esther Portnoy (re-elected)
- Elected to Endowment: Jane Lloyd and Charlotte Cook
- Unanimously passed a 2024 ministry spending plan of \$533,521
- Farewell to Elsa Dougherty and thanks to Charlotte for luncheon

Contact us at:
St. James Lutheran Church
1315 SW Park Ave
Portland, OR 97201
Office Hours: 7:30am-3pm

503-227-2439
office@stjamespdx.org
Newsletter Production: Parker Bocker-Knapp
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen McDonald

An Interview with Monica Setziol-Phillips

Monica Setziol-Phillips is the St. James February guest artist. If you're wondering why her name sounds familiar, it might be because St. James is also home to a few Leroy Setziol carvings. Leroy is Monica's father. Below are some highlights from a recent interview with Monica.

Q: Monica, you've been studying folktales and fairytales from all around the world. Are there any stories you've read that feel particularly resonant today?

M: Recently I've been reading stories from the Caucasus Mountains. They are myths that are full of warriors and survival of the tribe/culture. I haven't done a paper cut depicting war or one culture dominating another, but that does seem to be where we are right now in the world.

Q: Through your studying of folktales you've noticed a few common threads that appear across cultures. What are some of the common threads you see?

M: Well, there are things that are particular from one culture or another, but the common cords I see are the importance of family, love, and surmounting difficulties.

Q: An important part of your work is teaching wood carving and weaving workshops. Do you feel a sense of connection, or feel a common cord in your work as a teacher given that wood carving was passed down to you through your father, Leroy Setziol?

M: Well, it actually goes back further than my dad, and I do feel it's important to pass on and open up other people to the work. A second cousin of mine has become a serious carver and that is really rewarding. I try to keep in touch with my students too and encourage them. Crafts are dying out... the kinds where you don't use computers. Crafts where you have to use your hands, tools, and a physical medium, like wood or thread, have different things to teach us.

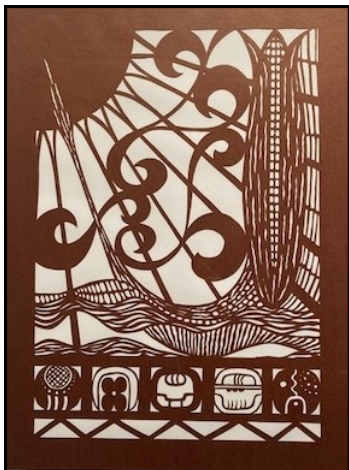
Q: Your father has carvings at St. James. Do you know how that came to be? What is your own relationship with your father's work?

M: It was a product of the friendship my father had with Pastor Smith. I think it was a very meaningful experience for my father to be able to carve those works. I've been asked about my father's work for ages and ages. It's both fine and gets on my nerves sometimes. I'm always happy to talk about my father's work though.

Q: How did you become connected with the St. James Visual Arts Group and the Pioneer Chapel Gallery?

M: That came through my friendship with Albert Alter. For a number of years I've run a summer arts program for kids and that's where I met and developed a friendship with Albert.

*Monica's show will be on display in Pioneer Chapel until February 24.
Stop by and see the work of this incredible artist.*



Annual Meeting Highlights

Church Council Election: President Carl Cottingham first thanked and congratulated the nominations committee (Richard Bishop, Cathie Coffman, Ann Tohlen, and Megan Scott) for their work. Carl then called for additional nominations from the floor for Council; there were none. Carl thanked Kathleen McDonald, who is retiring from council, for many years of service.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer David Scott presented the Treasurer's Report, noting congregational giving of \$297,621.10. Most expenses came in at or near budget, with the notable exception of the electric bill. St James finished the year with a surplus.

Pastor's Report: Pastor highlighted a number of projects we worked on during 2023 and thanked the congregation for their faithfulness, generosity and kindness. Some statistics: We welcomed 18 new members, held 3 baptisms and 11 funerals, worship attendance (including online) grew by 35%, the school enrolled 92 students, and we fed the houseless more than 250 times. Of course there were also challenges. Having been our pastor for five years Pastor earned and enjoyed two months of sabbatical. He will take an additional month some time in 2025. Finally, Pastor and the congregation thanked Elsa Dougherty for her years of service as Administrative Assistant.

Council Election Results: Esther Portnoy was re-elected and Matt Duskin and Gretchen Rogers were newly-elected to Council.

Endowment Committee Election: The Endowment Committee has \$53,000 to distribute in 2024. Ballots, with three candidates for two open positions on Endowment, were collected.

Council President's Report: Carl took the opportunity to recognize and thank Pastor Knapp, Pastor Rogge, Pastor Bocker, and the staff, including CDC Director Patrick Earnest and unpaid but priceless maintenance superman Larry Larsen.

2024 Budget: There is a reasonable hope that the electric bill will be lower this year, as some inefficiencies have been addressed. The monthly rent for the CDC has been increased.

Results of Election for Endowment Committee: Charlotte Cook and Jane Lloyd were elected.

Nominations Committee: Carl invited nominations and volunteers from the floor. Judith Smith, Cathie Coffman, and Roberta Bell volunteered.

Miscellaneous Business: Judith Smith requested volunteers to provide flowers for the altar. She is willing to buy, arrange, and place the flowers for a donation of \$50. Volunteers are also needed for refreshments during coffee hour.

St. James Child Development Center

"It's all STEM learning here at the CDC! Recently preschoolers have been exploring ramps, balls, and simple machines. In the classroom, we've been experimenting with building, engineering, and conducting different science experiments. Seeing the children work collaboratively as we try out new ideas has been incredible."

-Patrick Earnest, CDC Director



Welcome New Administrative Assistant!

Parker Bocker-Knapp will serve as an interim Administrative Assistant. Stop by and say hello!

St. James Member, Robert May Died Sunday, January 28

The graveside service for Robert May, age 81, will be held at River View Cemetery on Thursday, **February 8 at noon**. Pastor David will preside. Robert died on Sunday, January 28, he was the spouse of Margie Lee who preceded him in death.

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 7:15pm Choir	2 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless	3 9:30am Contemplative Prayer (Zoom)
4 <u>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:45am Coffee Hour 11am Open Space	5 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless	6 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless	7 8am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Houseless	8 8am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 12pm Robert May Graveside Service 7:15pm Choir	9 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless	10
11 <u>Transfiguration of Our Lord</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:45am Coffee Hour	12 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless	13 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 8am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer Noon Eucharist 11:30am Feeding the Houseless	15 8am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 7:15pm Choir	16 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless	17 9:30am Contemplative Prayer (Zoom)
18 <u>First Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:45am Coffee Hour 11am Open Space 4:50pm Jazz Vespers 6pm Artist Reception	19 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless	20 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 7pm Council Meeting	21 8am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer Noon Eucharist 12:45 Bible Study 11:30am Feeding the Houseless	22 8am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 7:15pm Choir	23 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless	24
25 <u>Second Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30am Eucharist 11am Wine Tasting	26 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless	27 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 7pm Book Club	28 8am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer Noon Eucharist 12:45 Bible Study 11:30am Feeding the Houseless	29 8am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Houseless 7:15pm Choir	1	2

St. James Ministries and Group



February 18 Jazz Vespers featuring John Moak, trombone

It's time for the PDX Jazz Festival! For the last several years St. James has been part of this annual festival where world class performers play all around the city. This month we will feature trombonist John Moak, one of Portland's first-call musicians. John has performed at St. James before and can be heard on *Come Sunday* and *We'll Be Together Again*, the two St. James Jazz Vespers albums.

Since moving to Portland in 2006, trombonist, John Moak has quickly become an integral part of the Northwest music scene. John has more than three decades of professional experience performing with symphony orchestras, ballets, Broadway musicals, big bands, dixieland bands, various jazz groups, and in recording studios. John has performed with such popular acts as Aretha Franklin, The Four Tops, The Temptations Glen Campbell, and Johnny Mathis.

Join us on **Sunday, February 18** for a night of great music. John will be joined by our St. James house band. **Pre-Vespers music begins at 4:50pm. Freewill offering.**

St. James Visual Arts Group: Monica Setziol-Phillips

Monica Setziol-Phillips is the daughter of well-remembered sculptor, Leroy Setziol, whose carvings can be seen in our St. James sanctuary and Pioneer Chapel. Monica has been weaving and carving for over 30 years. Her work is in many private collections in many states. She also has work in public spaces, including the permanent collection of the Allison Inn and Spa in Newberg, Salishan Resort at Gleneden Beach, and Sun River Lodge. Her work has been included in many group and solo shows including participation in the Sitka Art Invitational multiple times. She teaches wood carving and frame loom weaving workshops at Sitka Center for Art and Ecology in the summer.



Join us on **Sunday, February 18 at 6pm** for an artist reception celebrating Monica's work. Monica will also be selling Valentine's Day cards in Pioneer Chapel.

Open Space

Mark your calendars and join us for an exciting series of Open Spaces this February!

February 4: Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Faith Under Fire with Pastor Mark Brocker

February 11: No Open Space

February 18: The Creative Spirit with Monica Setziol-Phillips

February 24: Wine Tasting with Pastor Barry Rogge



Caring For Creation: Cost of War on the Natural World and Quality of Life

After reviewing months of news related to the war in the Ukraine and the Middle East I imagine we all mourn the loss of lives and the damage done to the human condition. People's lives have been uprooted and the impact on the poor is exponentially more challenging. However, what about the damage done to the natural world? According to an article in *The Hill* from July 7, 2023 we know that war has a serious impact on things like carbon emissions, pollution, toxic water supplies, and other environmentally damaging materials. Military tactics, technology, and weaponry contribute significantly to climate change and the rise of carbon emissions. Toxins released from military vehicles and chemicals impact the health and well being of soldiers and civilians alike. War exasperates an already difficult issue.



Tara Soneshine from Tufts University urges scholars and government officials to better understand the environmental impact of war and communicate those dangers loudly. She believes that this awareness should push nations toward shared goals of reducing climate destruction. It could be the issue that brings about what Soneshine calls a “new values alignment” that is both positive and within every nation’s self-interest. How can we at St. James Lutheran Church bring awareness to this issue? Bring your ideas to an Open Space session in March. The exact date will be communicated soon.

-submitted by Mandy Ellertson



Contemplative Prayer

You are invited to consider a contemplative practice with the Contemplative Prayer group who gather via Zoom to pray, learn, and share through silence and breath prayer. Contact Susan McBerry for the Zoom link. Meetings are the first and third Saturdays of the month from **9:30-11am**.

Book Club

This month the book club will read John Carreyrou's *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup*— a non-fiction book about the rise and fall of Elizabeth Holmes. Their meeting will be held on **February 27**. Contact Linda Rickert for more information!

Fair Trade Product Sale February 4

Stock up now! Fair Trade coffee gets you through Lent, and Fair Trade chocolate is the best for Easter! Catch them both at the Fair Trade table on **Sunday, February 4**. See you there!



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, Bruce Richards, Gavin Morisada, Paul Matson, Peter Kim, Amy Manning, Barbara Roady, Gail Koester, Granny Lee, Lynn Strand, and David Rutlen. We remember St. James member Robert May who died on Sunday, January 28.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Friedrich Schuler	2/5
Kathleen McDonald	2/6
Quinn Mott	2/13
Margaret & James Eickmann	2/16
Gabriel Kirkeberg-Proo	2/21
Ginamarie Pezzi	2/24
Marsha Gulick	2/26

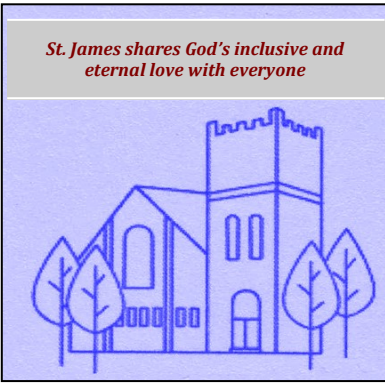
Sunday Refreshment Hosts and Altar Flower Sponsors

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
February 4	OPEN	The Pahlmeyers
February 11	Charlotte Cook	Jeff Rhodes
February 18	OPEN	No Flowers (Lent)
February 25	OPEN	No Flowers (Lent)

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



1315 SW Park Ave
Portland, OR 97201
www.stjamespdx.org
Office Hours: 7:30am-2pm
Tel: 503.227.2439
Fax: 503.227.0856

STAFF

Full Time:

David Knapp, Pastor

Patrick Earnest, Director, Child Dev. Center

Part Time:

Karin Hatch, Parish Administrator

Sharon Kurtz, Bookkeeper

Parker Bocker-Knapp, 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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1315 SW Park Ave
Portland OR 97201