The Way of St. J

St. James' Episcopal Church
Fremont, CA

Handbook For Life

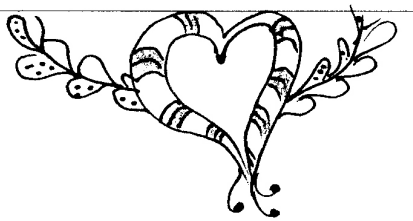
St. James' Episcopal Church
Fremont, California

We launch prayers like

Darts---For friends, enemies, peace.

Maybe some will stick.

• Episcopal Haiku by Goodyear and Weissman



GROW YOUR FAITH

Worship In-Person & Live-Streamed

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Chair Exercise

Sunday School

Episcopal Youth Fremont

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Bible Studies (zoom)

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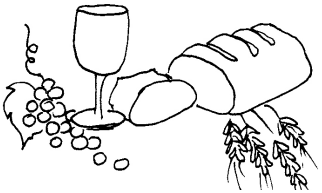
GROW YOUR FAITH



Worship

Worship services are our sacred gatherings to honor God, hear and contemplate scripture, and share Holy Communion. Worship is the core of our relationship with God and each other. St. James' gathers for worship services each Sunday at 8am (in the Little Church) and 10:30am (in the Big Church). A mid-week service of Ante-Communion is also held on zoom, Wednesdays at 10am.
The Sunday 10:30 worship service is live-streamed. Connect with us through the homepage of our website.

St. James' Choir

Leads the congregation in song, enhancing the liturgy of the word and table to create a spiritually transformative experience for those gathered.

Lectors

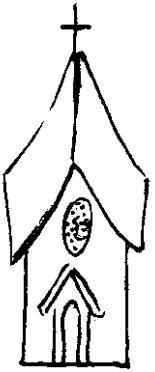
Lectors are lay readers from the congregation who read the lessons each week during our services. The lectors follow a set schedule, and typically read at one service, once per month.

Acolytes

A ministry for children 2nd grade and above, to assist with our Sunday morning worship services. Acolytes help carry the cross, and help with setting the altar for communion.

American Sign Language Prayer Service

Meets every Sunday morning at 10:30am on zoom. This service explores the Sunday lessons and has a lively discussion. Fluency in ASL required. Contact the office for details.



Online Prayer Gatherings

Periodic zoom services hosted by the Social Justice Task Force to pray for the concerns and suffering of the world. Keep your eye open for offerings advertised in our newsletter and weekly emails.

Sunday School

All children are welcome to join our Sunday School. The children meet during the 10:30am service and re-join their families in church in time for the Eucharist. Our program, for TK-6th grade broadly follows a Lectionary based curriculum, using the same lessons that are heard in church and is taught by a small team of teachers led by our Children & Youth Minister. Other activities, including a Family Camp night, Summer Day Camp and Camp Sunday are also run during the year for children & families.

Episcopal Youth Fremont

Episcopal Youth Fremont meets monthly on campus and welcomes 6th -12th graders from St. James' and St. Anne's Episcopal Church.

The group meets for games, discussion, Bible study and to create community. EYF is also the primary place for confirmation preparation and discernment for young people.

Eucharistic Ministers

This is a group of lay ministers selected by the rector, to assist in worship by reading the prayers of the people and serve the chalice during communion.

Chair Exercise

Using the practices of Qi Gong and Tai Chi/Hsing I, this weekly gathering on zoom allows for a practice of slow, rhythmic and meditative movements. No experience is necessary. Sessions are held Tuesday mornings at 10:00am. Find the zoom link on our website under "upcoming events" or call the office for details.

Book Studies

On Wednesday afternoons, a group gathers to read and discuss a book of faith, growth, or other topic of current interest relative to our spiritual lives. The group meets from 3:00-4:00pm, in the Education Room. Check out our newsletter or weekly emails for the latest offering. Books are often found at low-cost, and everyone is invited to attend some or all of a book's series of classes.

Tuesday Night Classes

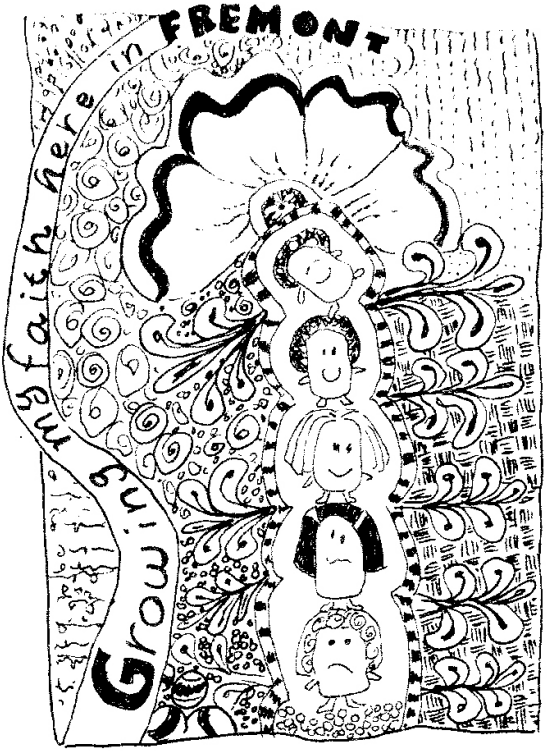
Throughout the year, and most often times during the Lenten season, a faith-related series of classes is offered. Typically held around 7pm, with an optional shared meal before hand, these classes are often clergy-led and allow attendees to grow and expand their faith and knowledge on a wide variety of subjects.

Focus on Faith

A Saturday zoom gathering at 10:00am to talk about faith, God, and whatever else comes to mind! This conversation is clergy-led and is a great opportunity to ask any questions you have. Go to our homepage under "upcoming events" for the zoom link.

Bible Study

Two weekly bible studies, Monday and Wednesday, both at 11:00 on zoom, are offered. The Monday bible study reads and discusses scripture together. The Wednesday bible study watches a short video together and talks about it afterwards. Both gatherings are on zoom. Check out our home page under "upcoming events" for the link.



MAKE FRIENDS

Available For Lunch

As a way to grow in fellowship and to get to know each other, at various times and at varying frequency each year, the Available for Lunch team coordinates a group lunch at a local restaurant. Attendees pay for their own meals. All ages are welcome to attend, and those joining together for a meal come away with new friends. Suggestions for lunch spots are always welcomed.

Home Alone Group

A Thursday noontime gathering on zoom meant to connect those who live alone with others. The group meets on zoom to catch up with each other. Get the zoom link on our website under "upcoming events".

Campus Clean-Up

A monthly gathering of parishioners gathering together for service projects and general cleanup on the campus of St. James'.

Saint James' Day Picnic

Each July, we celebrate the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, St. James. Often coordinated by the vestry with volunteers from throughout the parish, we celebrate with a festive worship service on Sunday morning, and follow it with a picnic full of games, activities, great food and conversation. Often, the congregations of the Philippine Independent Church join us for this celebratory day.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday is the day in February or March, before Ash Wednesday, which starts the season of Lent on the church calendar. An annual tradition on this Tuesday each year is a Pancake Supper, prepared and hosted by the men of the parish. A long-time favorite event of many, this dinner brings the parish together for food and fellowship, and a mindful start to the Lenten season.

Foyer Dinner Groups

Foyer Groups are gatherings of 4 couples (or 8 people) who share a social dinner together. The purpose is to broaden and deepen the social connections of newer members of the parish, and help even "old-timers" get to know folks from the "other service." The group meets for dinner 4 times a year, in each other's homes, or at the parish. The purpose of Foyer Groups is not to have groups of friends sign up together, but to "mix it up." It's a fun way to get to know one another better, particularly the newer members of our wonderful community.

Women's Flatlanders

For over 40 years, the weekend following Labor Day each year, women of the parish are invited to a beach side resort on Monterey Bay, for fellowship, food and fun. The group shares meals, prayers, games and walks on the beach. The group began as a healing ministry for the women of the church. Today it continues to be a place where you can feel God's love – through prayer, song and fellowship.

Men's Retreat

Each summer, a group of men from the parish head to the mountains for a multi-day retreat. They gather to hike, play golf, fish, swim, kayak, shoot pool, read, tell stories and eat good food. It's a great time for new members to get to know your fellow parishioners better.

Advent Eve

We celebrate the Advent season with an evening service, activity, and meal for the whole church family. Everyone is welcome to join in on this evening where we learn to wait together for the arrival of the Christ Child. We have heard about Advent traditions from around the world and created some of our own.

BE PART OF A TEAM

Road Crew & Live-Stream Team

These audiovisual teams set up the audio for our various services and celebrations and are responsible for our live streaming of weekly services and special events.

Altar Guild

Prepares the altar space in our churches for our sacred worship services, including Holy Communion, Funerals, Weddings, and special celebrations.

Ushers

Support Sunday worship and pecial services by ensuring each participant has worship materials, guides people in receiving Holy Communion, and assists in attending to the needs of the gathered assembly.

Coffee Hour Hosts

Facilitates the preparation and clean-up of our coffee hour set-up each Sunday. Coffee hour is held between the two Sunday services at about 9am, and again after the 10:30 service.

The Memorial Garden & Columbariuim Committee

Provides a consecrated and maintained place for the internment of ashes of St. James' members and their families inside the Little Church columbarium and outside in designated memorial garden areas. The Committee also maintains the remembrance garden with stone markers for beloved church members and their family members who are interred in other states or locations.

The Newsletter Team

A team that communicates relevant, inspirational, spiritual and accessible information, via the newsletter "The Window". The newsletter is published, distributed, and posted online.

The Endowment Board

Manages the money of the St. James' Endowment Fund. It educates and informs the congregation about the endowment and how and why they can become members of the Shell Society (individuals who will provide funds to the endowment through their will or estate plan).

Deanery Representatives

Represent St. James' in our local deanery, a geographical grouping of six Episcopal churches. The deanery representatives also act on behalf of St. James' at the annual diocesan convention.

Greeters

Greeters help visitors feel welcome. This may involve directing them to the nursery or Sunday school room and introducing them with people currently staffing these areas. It may involve assisting in the use of our worship materials. The greeter is positioned next to the rector following the service to invite visitors to sign our guest book and join us in the Parish Hall for coffee.

McCutcheon Concert Team

Since January 2004, St. James' has been host to a concert by renowned folk musician John McCutcheon, when he stops by "Club St. J" as part of his national tour. Team members sell tickets, coordinate with the artist and his crew, set up the stage, supply the crew dinner before the show, and more. The show attracts fans from all over the Bay Area.

Social Justice Task Force

This task force helps raise awareness of the many injustices in our world through prayer, education, and action. They meet twice a month to plan meaningful events for the parish. Contact the office to learn more about this important group.

SERVE OTHERS

Reception Committee

Provides a warm and welcoming atmosphere for family and friends following a funeral or memorial service. The committee works very closely with the rector to understand and meet the needs of the grieving survivors.

Maisha Bora

Financial assistance for girls and young women in Kenya, enabling them to go to High School and University. Their education benefits themselves and their families, helping to alleviate poverty.

St. James' Cares

St. James' Cares is a resource for help, for our parishioners, supported by our parishioners. This ministry was piloted in the fall of 2014 and enjoyed a successful launch in 2015. We have approximately 40 volunteers to meet the needs of the community. Assistance can be be requested by phone, email or through our website, for help with rides, meals, social visits, and more. We are currently using the website Lotsa Helping Hands to manage requests. Requests can be make via phone to the St. James' office, through email to the church or through the St. James' website.

Abode Sunrise Village Meals

Periodically provide nourishing dinner meals for the residents of Sunrise Village Emergency Shelter, an arm of Abode Services.

Eucharistic Visitors

The ministry of the Lay Eucharistic Visitor is to provide the sacrament of Holy communion to those who are hospitalized, homebound, and in nursing homes. It is an extension of our Communion - some of the bread and wine that is blessed each Sunday is reserved each week to take to those who cannot be with us in worship.

Hillside Visits

Hillside Senior Care Center is a residential care home in Fremont, for aging elders in a family-styled home like environment. Volunteers of all ages visit Hillside at Easter and Christmas, bringing music, stories, and personal visits to the residents.

School Supplies Drive

Our annual school supplies collection supports Abode Services (children and young people in the greater Bay Area) and Union City Family Center in setting up students for a successful school year. Donations of new school supplies or cash donations to enable us to shop the lists each organization identifies. We value this opportunity to help every student start school with the supplies they need.

Summer Day Camp

This is an annual 5-day summer camp for kids held on our campus. It is for children not only affiliated with our parish, but is also available to those in our community. Extensive planning is done by our Children's minister and scores of volunteers, to provide a rich and meaningful day camp for kids, full of sacred stories, joyous camp music, snacks, outdoor games, and crafts.

Corazon Build

A yearly trip to Mexico with other churches in our deanery to build a house for a family in Mexico. Each year, we raise money and provide labor for this important outreach.

Homewarming

St. James' works with Abode Service, a local agency which helps secure permanent homes for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. St. James' helps by providing them with furniture, linens, kitchen supplies, a basket of pantry items, funds for deposit and moving assistance – all things that turn a new apartment into a home.

Blessing Bags

Bags filled with toiletries, socks, food and other essentials are available for parishioners to take and hand out to people who are homeless or in need of a little help.

Illustrations by Nancy Svenson

September 2022 (updated)

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