Corporate Spiritual Discernment

St. James' Fremont

June 15th 2024

Agenda 10am-2pm

- Breakfast (9:30 -10:00)
- Introduction (10 mins)
- Dwelling in the Word (30 mins)
- Report from the Steering Team & Q&A (1 hour)
- Lunch (40 mins)
- Brainstorming in Breakout Groups (1 hour)
- Summary Reporting (40 mins)
- Closing

What we have learnt so far

Timeline Event

Timeline Event

Red Letter Days	Blue Letter Days	Green Letter Days
Things that we are proud of or make us happy	Things that we are not proud of or make us unhappy	Things that give us hope for our future as a church

Timeline Event

Red Letter Days	Blue Letter Days	Green Letter Days
Arrival of new people	Departures Moved, Died	Arrivals
Staff	Circumstances around Clergy Departure in 2008	Staff
Baptism, Weddings, Memorial Celebrations Services, Healing and Social Events	COVID Lockdown, inability to be together	Ministries Children, ASL Livestream & Online gatherings
Campus		Campus

Congregational Discovery (Interviews)

Trends in interview responses

At St. James we are…

Welcoming, Friendly, Inclusive, Accepting

We participate by…

Serving on Sunday, Caring for Campus, Sharing in Ministry

88% of regular members participate in at least one ministry

Profound experiences are shared…

in special services, sermons, worship

Trends in interview responses

We're most anxious about people departing;
We're most hopeful about people arriving

We sense God's presence in…
care/spiritual support/service given by members & staff

We learn through…
bible study, faith formation, sermons, sunday school, fellowship…

We don't see fighting…
we discuss our opinions, work it out and respect others

St. James' Culture

Worship is …

Core to who we are and is meaningful.

Attended weekly by a faithful core, and others that don't come every week.

Something that happens primarily on Sunday.

Our children's program is appreciated by families (and members alike)

A great program with an excellent leader.

St. James' Culture

We care about **including newcomers**; we are welcoming.

We share **care / spiritual support / service** between clergy, staff and laity.

Clergy nurture the congregation.

We nurture each other; people feel seen and known.

We nurture with offerings like bible study and faith formation.

We nurture with food.

St. James' Culture

How do people inside the congregation view the future?

Hopeful for growth, families especially.
Increased diversity is positive.

How do people inside the congregation view the wider community?

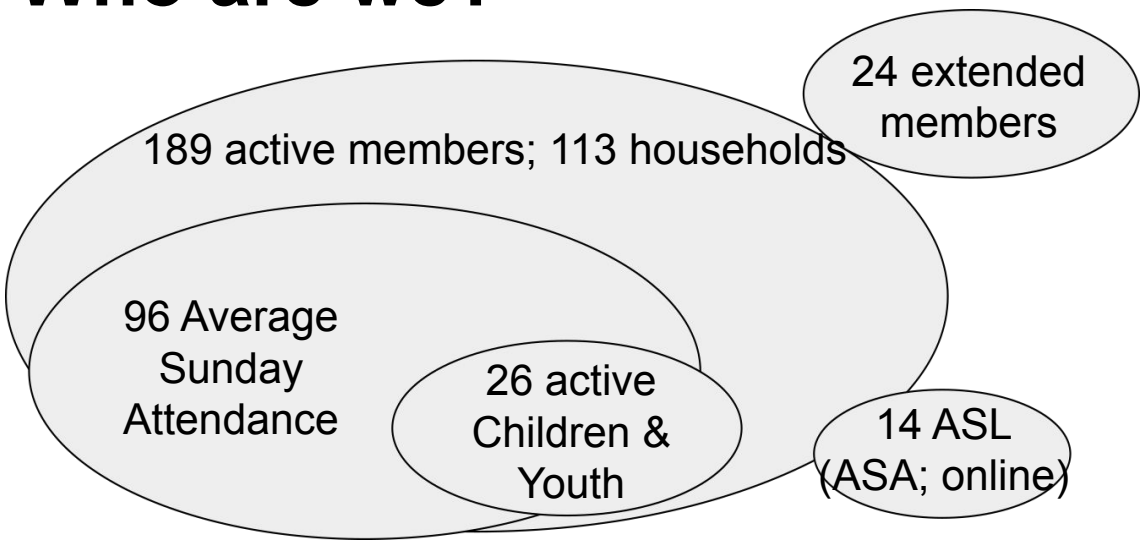
Housing insecurity is worrying.

Cost of housing is high and rising.

The wider community is becoming more diverse.

Data for Discernment Report

Who are we?



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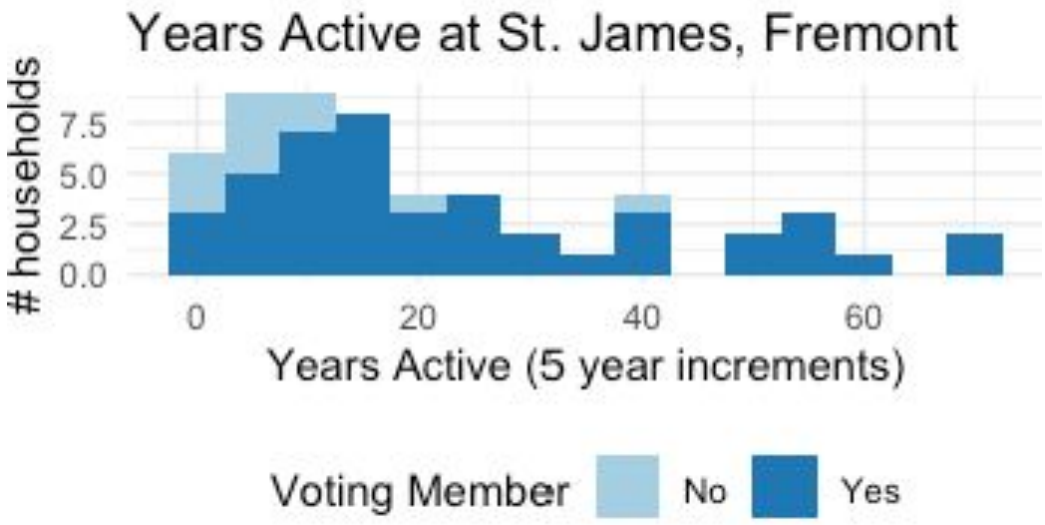

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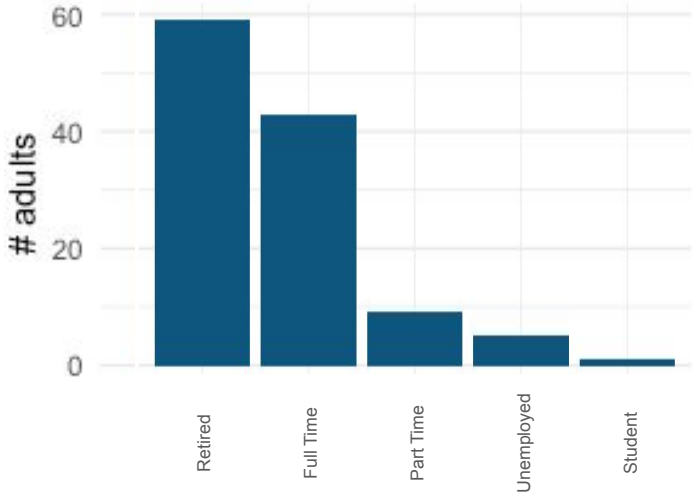

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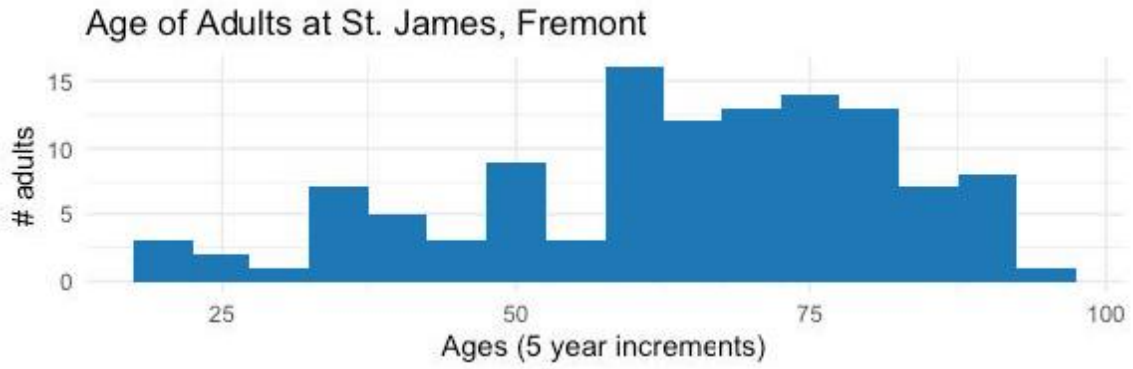

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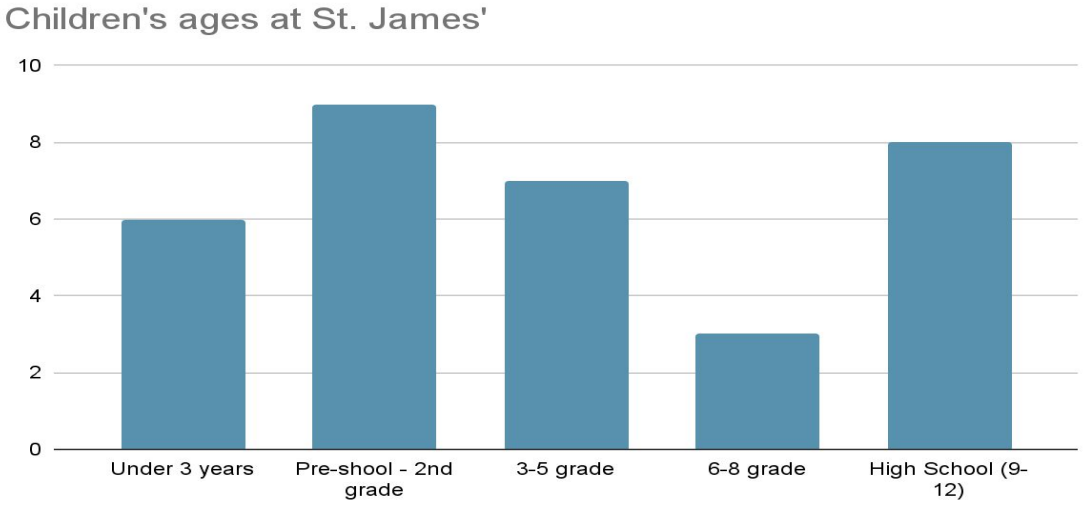
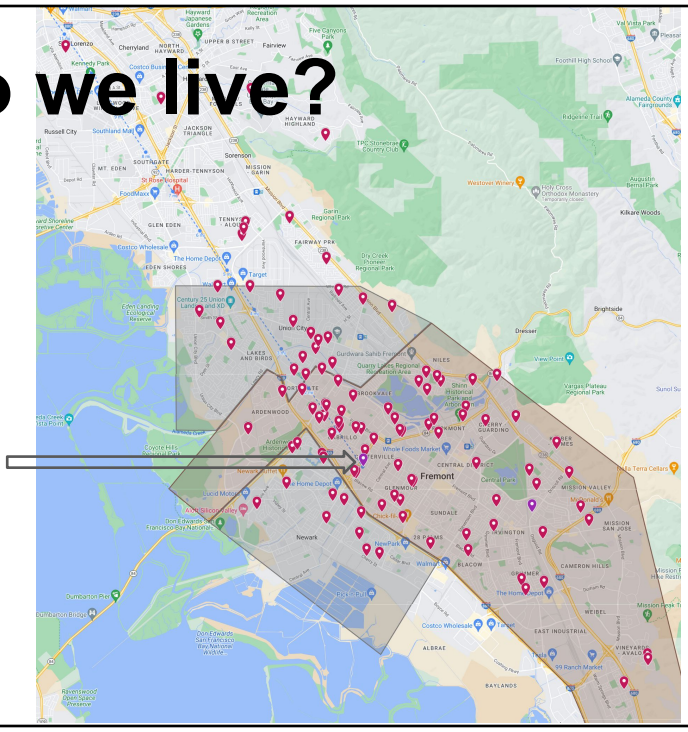
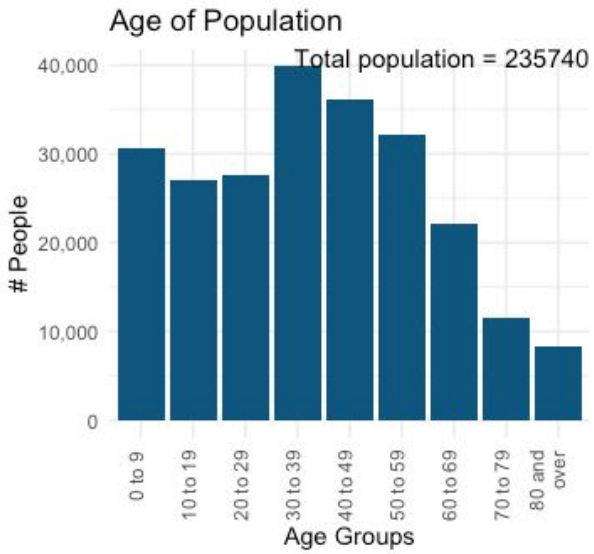


Where do we live?



Fremont Population Data



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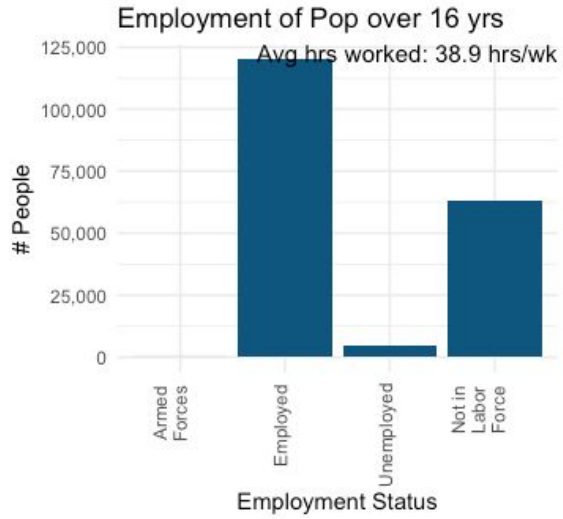

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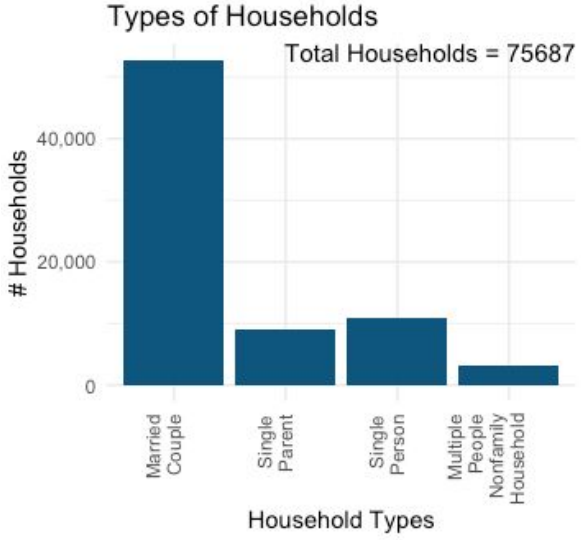

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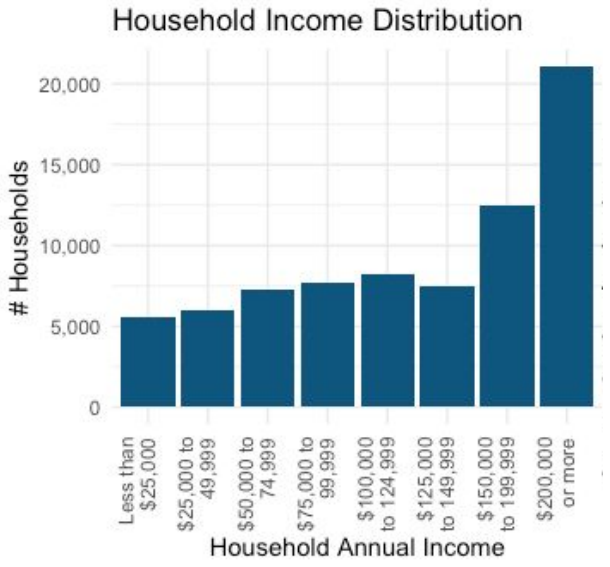


Fremont Population Data

By the Numbers	#
Median Age	38.3
People with a disability	4.31%
People experiencing food insecurity	4.92%
People w/o health insurance	1.91%
Children w/o health insurance	0.54%
Median household income	$148750/ye
Income spent on rent (median)	26.5%
Median housing costs	$2455/mon

What changes has our community seen in recent times?

Cost of housing - up 12.5% in past 12 months ($1.6M average in Fremont)

- Tri-City area housing costs have caught up with rest of the Bay Area.
- Some people are cashing out
- Visible homeless population and struggling financially.

Increased need for social supports.

More religious diversity.

Does the traffic outside our building have anything to do with the traffic inside our building?

On State Route 84. Minimal foot traffic.

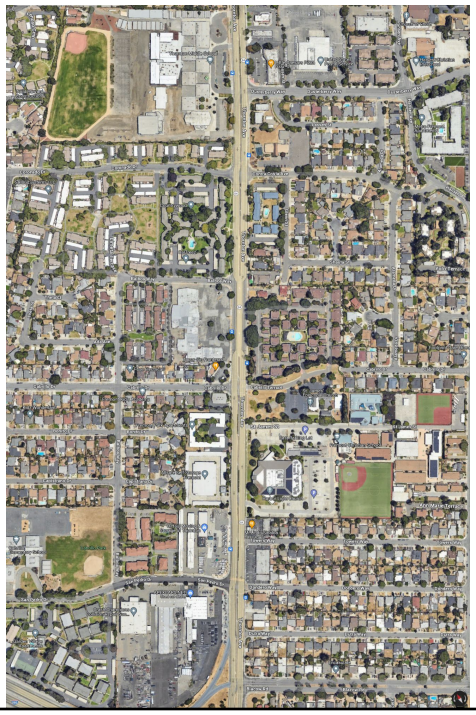
Sign, flag and banners do show presence.

- Some people came in because of the pride flag.

School traffic but the next door church has its own school.

Lots of condos.

Virtual presence as likely to draw visitors as location.



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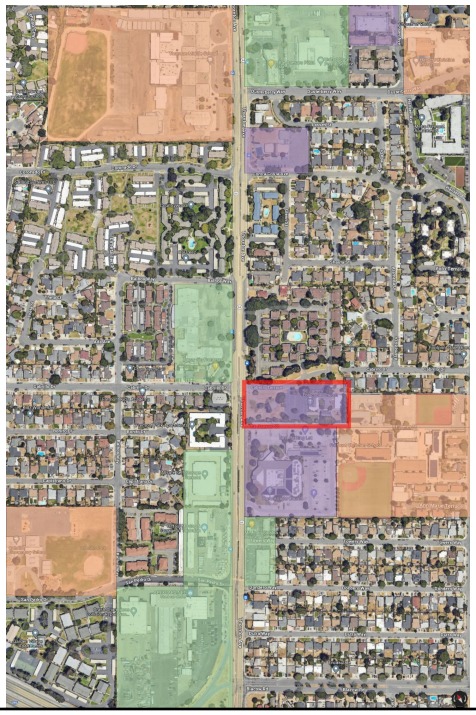

What should we pay attention to as we discern our part of God's mission in and with our community?

We should pay attention to…

Large amount of mobility in our population – same as in church.

Need for ministry

- to the newly arrived and
- to the disenfranchised church goer/seekers.

Our spiritual value; Jesus, stability, focus.

Need to be more outward looking.

Our resources, including our land.

Q & A