The Window

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, FREMONT CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 2025

You Are the Light of This World

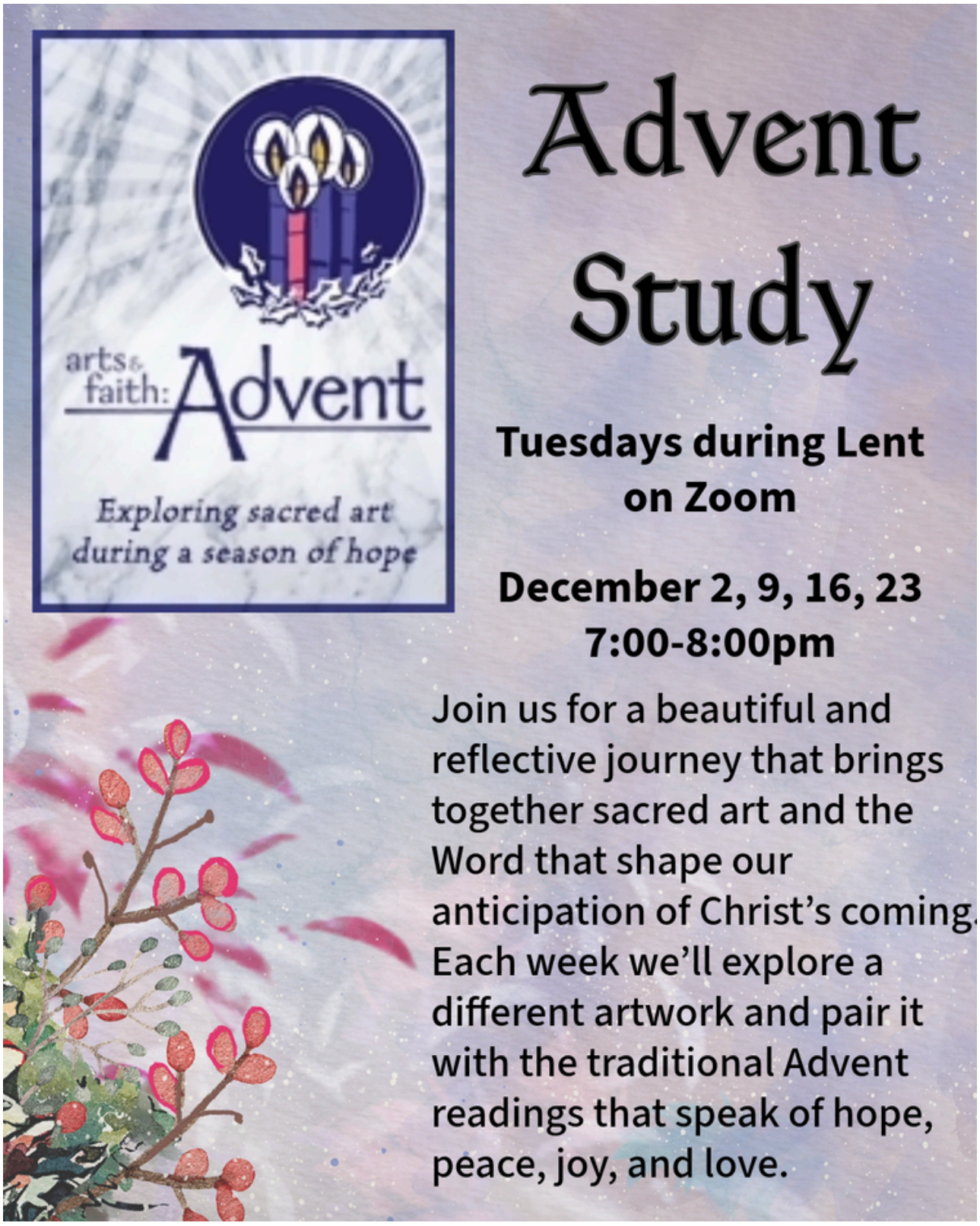
by Gregg Feeney

We are in a season where there is less light during the day and this affects our moods. Many of us have experienced the loss of family members, friends, and acquaintances throughout the year or have had loved ones pass away during this time of year. How do we keep going, especially when we read the newspaper or check daily updates on our phones and computers, and the news is unpleasant?

The light we experience can be from the sun and the warmth it gives when you are outside enjoying it or from the card or letter you receive in the mail, the phone call, or a text or email you receive.
I remember in the late 1970s when I attended Humboldt State, there was a program called Adopt-a-Grandparent. I joined it and met a man name Tyronne Richards, who had had a stroke and spent a lot of time in bed. His wife was still working as a school teacher. I would visit a couple of times during the week to talk about his life and my school work. I occasionally would spend a night or two there when his wife had to go away. Even during those rainy and overcast days, there was light coming through when I visited Tyronne. My youth and his life experiences brought the warmth into the house as we shared stories and had tea together.

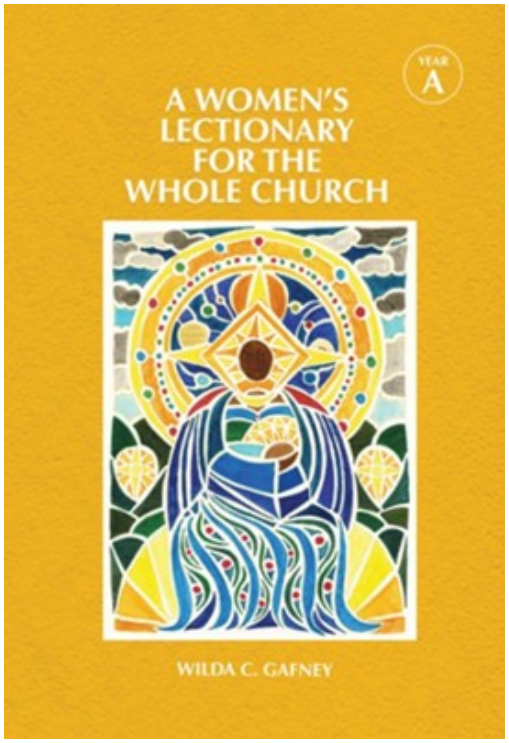
The current political turmoil has touched all the members of our community. In spite of all the negativity, we rally together as a Christian community and bring Jesus's message of hope and love. "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness," said Desmond Tutu. Our actions, by stepping out of our comfort zone and taking time to know our fellow parishioners during the service, at coffee hour, and at St James' events, vestry meetings, and campus clean-up days, keep the light shining through bleak times.

Let's continue to reach out to our parishioners, especially the ones who are homebound, are infrequent church attendees, or are now widowed. They need our support.


arts & faith: Advent
Exploring sacred art during a season of hope
Advent Study
Tuesdays during Lent on Zoom
December 2, 9, 16, 23
7:00-8:00pm
Join us for a beautiful and reflective journey that brings together sacred art and the Word that shape our anticipation of Christ's coming. Each week we'll explore a different artwork and pair it with the traditional Advent readings that speak of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Advent Season Lectionary

This Advent season we are once again visiting the scripture translations by The Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney. Gafney is an American biblical scholar and Episcopal priest who is the Right Rev. Sam B. Hulsey Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School of Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. She is a specialist in womanist biblical interpretation and topics including gender and race. She is the author of *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church*, Years W, A, B and C. As we embark on this new liturgical year, we will be using Year A in our liturgical services. Gafney's work gives us a wonderful opportunity to hear the Word anew. If you would like a copy of the lessons in advance, let Rev. Lori or Rev. Ingrid know.



ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

God willing and the people consenting,
St. James' is hosting
Reverend Ingrid Jacobson's
ordination to the priesthood.

December 20, 2025
10:00 AM
in person and live-streamed
Reception Following

ADVENT FAMILY EVENING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 5-7PM

Join us at an evening for the whole church family - craft, music and dinner.

Sign up in the Parish Hall, call the office at 510-797-1492, or email jan@saintj.com

Advent Prayer

Brian Cochran

As we enter the season of Advent in preparation for celebrating the mystery of Christmas, I want to ask, what is our prayer to be?

I would like to suggest that our prayer this season be one of quiet. As the days turn dark, storms of wind, rain, and cold sweep over us. This late fall and winter is a time to slow down, to be inside, to go inside ourselves and to wait.

While the holidays are a time of gathering with family and friends, feasts and parties, and simply celebrating with others, the holidays can be holy days in another sense too. This time of year can be a time of silence, of listening, of simply being with God. Unless we slow down and reject the temptation to give in to the frantic frenzy of this season, we will "miss the mystery," as the Godly Play Advent stories say.

In the darkness of morning or evening, we can light a candle or plug in the Christmas tree lights. We can join Mary on her way to the tomb "at dawn while it was still dark" (John 20:1) or the disciples in the upper room at night (John 13:30) to listen to and question the Lord. And in the quiet we can breathe deeply, calm our bodies, and smile. These moments of pause allow us to be in the presence of God, Lifegiver (John 5:21, 6:63), and be grateful for our life. As Thomas Keating instructs, we can choose a prayer word to draw us back to the quiet when the frenzy of our thoughts and feelings threaten. By saying the word in these distracted moments, we come back to the Presence, back to the Divine Action in our life, and are healed again.

May we, you, have a Holy Advent this year. Amen.

Vestry Meeting Minutes, November 2025

submitted by John Amouroux, Junior Warden

The vestry meeting held in person November 20 was called to order at 6:59pm. Paula led the Opening Prayer.

Recorded previous email vote (passed) for deaf ministry account transfer.

Monthly Business

- Oral communications
  - Discussed future funding for blessing bag ministry
- Approved the October 16 vestry meeting minutes
- Reviewed and accepted the October financial reports
- Accepted the October staff and ministry reports

New and Continuing Business

- Discussed land development topics, conferences attended, land feasibility, solar, …
- Received update on Imara International – plan to formally start support in January
- Discussed and voted: Land acknowledgment statement purpose
- Discussed and voted: Disbursement of endowment distribution
- Discussed: Use of bequest given
- Brainstormed and assigned querying of potential vestry members
- Voted to purchase canopies to replace existing, weathered ones

Reminders

- Newsletter article for December, due November 20, by Gregg *(see Page 1)*
- Newsletter article for January, due December 20, by Burtin
- November 23 is the ingathering of pledges.
- December 18 Vestry Meeting is on ZOOM; Burtin has prayers.
- Save the date: Ingrid's ordination on December 20, 10:00am!
- Vestry meeting: January 8, 2026, held early for budget purposes
- Epiphany party: Saturday January 10
- Budget meeting: January 11
- Annual meeting: January 18
- Vestry retreat: January 30-31, Friday and Saturday

Paula led Compline and the meeting adjourned at 9:08pm.

The next vestry meeting, on December 18, will be held on Zoom.

WAYS WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER

LITURGY & WORSHIP

WORSHIP IN PERSON AT CHURCH

We offer two services on Sunday morning, at 8:00am and 10:30am. Coffee and light snacks follow each service. Join us for worship and fellowship!

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

If you cannot attend church in person, you can join our 10:30am service live-streamed on Sundays at **saintj.com**, our parish website. The service can be joined at any time on Sunday from 10:30am or watched during the week online through our **YouTube channel**.

WEDNESDAY 10:00AM SERVICE

Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with prayers and sermon discussion in real time through Zoom on Wednesday mornings. The link can be found under "Upcoming Events" on the right side of our **website**.

Follow us on Social Media!

FACEBOOK INSTAGRAM

Find service & sermon audio/video recordings:

YOUTUBE APPLE SPOTIFY TUNEIN

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

SCRIPTURE / BIBLE STUDIES

Monday | 11:00am on Zoom

Join with others to catch up and wrestle with some of the sacred texts of the Bible. We meet every Monday on Zoom. ***Email Rev. Lori at lori@saintj.com for the Zoom link or find more info on our website***.

Wednesday | 11:00am on Zoom

Join us for Bible Study facilitated by Rev. Lori. Each week we discuss scripture, engaging in various media such as art, video, and text. ***Email Rev. Lori with questions or find the Zoom link on our website.***

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

Join us for light refreshments and conversation after each service on Sunday mornings in the Parish Hall.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

MORNING CHAIR EXERCISE

Tuesdays on Zoom | 10am – 11am

Join our weekly class of chair exercises on Breathing (Qi Gong) and Tai Chi (Hsing I). ***Email Sylvia Ma at hsiehtinghsueh@yahoo.com for the Zoom link.***

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Sunday School | ***Current Events***

Sunday School, for children in TK through 6th grade, meets weekly during the 10:30am service. The children gather in church and head to the Sunday School classroom when the service begins and return during the Peace to participate in the Liturgy of the Table (Eucharist) with their families. A registration form for all under 18's, which includes a media release and opportunity to share any relevant information, can be found **HERE**.

Episcopal Youth Fremont

Episcopal Youth Fremont (EYF) is a youth group for 6th through 12th graders based at St. James' which meets during the school year. ***Any questions about our programs for children or youth? Email our Children & Youth Minister Jan Scrutton at jan@saintj.com.***

FINANCIAL SUMMARY | OCTOBER 2025

FUND BALANCES	10/31/24	10/31/25
Operating Fund	58,878.74	60,377.86
Building Fund	96,034.35	87,550.79
Special Interest funds	722,474.96	724,256.25
Pledges Budgeted	331,442.50	312,468.30
Pledges Paid	317,089.49	310,578.28
Unpledged Contributions	8,650.00	20,869.99
Other Operating Income	16,662.30	33,270.22
Total Operating Income	342,401.79	364,718.49
Total Operating Expenses	344,425.04	365,385.29
Income Less Expenses	-2,023.25	-666.80

ALWAYS AT SAINT JAMES'

MONTHLY PRAYER LIST

For Those in the Military

Megan, Theresa, Mark, Tim, Caitlin, Emily, Robin, Dave, Shawn, Ethan, Paul, Matthew, Darren, Robert

For Those Who Need Healing & Comfort

Ron, Julie, Linda, Barry, David, Elaine, Margaret, Mandy, John, Ralph, John, Karen, Jim, Steve, Jesseny, Warren, Mary Ellen, Alice, Donna, Rod, Sharon T's brother and sister, Becki, George, Mark, Mercedes, Karen, Dawn

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength, & Guidance

David, Derek, Lynn, Cat, Beth, Lisa, Kenny, Linda

For Those Who Have Passed Away

Jeana

BLESSING BAGS & DISTRUBITION

Each bag contains toiletries, water, food, socks, a blanket, and a mask. We're using reusable cloth bags that double as backpacks. ***We are not taking donations other than monetary donations.*** This allows us to purchase what we need and to be consistent. Blessing Bags are available to pick up during parish office hours (Wed/Thurs, 10am-1pm).

It is helpful to have gift cards to give with the bags when appropriate. If you'd like to donate a gift card, we ask for $25 cards for gas, Safeway, Target, Walmart, or Lucky. They can be given to the wardens (vestry) or clergy.

To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please call or email the parish office.

After six weeks, names are removed.

Please renew your request(s) as needed.

ACCESS TO ZOOM LINKS

Zoom links for all of our offerings can be found on our parish website, **saintj.com**; look for the calendar on our home page. If something is not listed, email the gathering/event leader.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The Newsletter Team welcomes your essays, poems, photos, reviews, and news. ***Email your submission to newsletter@saintj.com by December 18*** to ensure it's included.

ADDRESS *Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace, Fremont CA*

MAILING *PO Box 457 Fremont, CA 94537-0457*

WEBSITE *www.saintj.com* **TELEPHONE** *(510) 797-1492*

OFFICE HOURS *Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10:00am – 1:00pm*

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton, *Rector*.....**lori@saintj.com**
The Rev. Ingrid Jacobson, *Associate Rector*.....**ingrid@saintj.com**
Jan Scrutton, *Children and Youth Minister*.....**jan@saintj.com**
Jennifer Ravera, *Music Director*.....**music@saintj.com**
Ron Cook, *Office Administrator*.....**admin@saintj.com**
Bruce Roberts, *Treasurer*.....**treasurer@saintj.com**

VESTRY MEMBERS

Senior Warden
Charisma Pangilinan | srwarden@saintj.com

Junior Warden
John Amouroux | jrwarden@saintj.com

Emily Dunn
Gregg Feeney
Burtin Hart
Matt Hurley
Kaethe Langs
Paula McKinney
Katie Porter
Marcus Pun
Bev Mosier
Barbara Vacchieri

Vestry Clerk **Elizabeth Hart**

CONVENTION DELEGATES

Bev Mosier
Mike Scrutton
Ken Trant
John Wagas

Alternate to Convention **Jim McConnell**

Contact: **stjdeanery@saintj.com**

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday Services
In-Person | 8:00am and 10:30am

Live-streamed | 10:30am with recording

Wednesday Service
Online/Zoom | 10:00am (Ante-Communion)

MAIN COORDINATORS

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors
George Siegmann

Eucharistic Visitors
The Rev. Ingrid Jacobson

Ushers
Burtin Hart

Facilities ***facilities@saintj.com***

The Window Newsletter Staff
Laura Winter
John Wagas **Gregg Feeney**
Barbara Milligan **Brian Cochran**