The Window

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

MARCH 2026

Living Our Baptismal Covenant In These Times

Gregg Feeney

Every day when we open our cellphones or laptops, turn on the television, or read the newspaper, we see so much negative press, it's hard to keep a positive attitude. Being a member at St. James' and listening to the Gospel and sermons helps me tune out the noise.

Our congregation lives out our baptismal covenant daily. "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?" (BCP, p. 305). I will with God's help. In Matthew 10, the gospel provides instruction for how the apostles are called to engage with the world around them. We are engaged by the amount of caring we provide locally. It shows in the diversity of our congregation and by the different ministries—the blessing bags, serving dinners at Sunrise Village, Safe Parking, Abode Services, Imara International, Tri-City Interfaith Council, home visits, Corazon build, and fellowship dinners to name a few.

My own personal pledge is to reach out to my neighbors more to see why they have left their church and invite them to an activity or to attend a church service. I truly believe there are many waiting to be asked. Once a person attends our service, they will see the community we have and possibly return. Maybe not immediately and it could take an event to bring them back. I came to St. James' on my own. I needed a place for healing after my father-in-law passed away in 1995. It took me 2 years to find one after visiting many churches. It was the kindness bestowed upon me and my family that kept me coming back.

When I walk the neighborhood daily, I see all different nationalities, ages, and genders. I'm usually met with a smile, greeting, or some type of engagement. It's probably my dog that gets people to stop or the community cats that follow us. It's the little things that create a welcoming environment.

Let's keep doing what we do best at St. James', and that's the way we honor our baptismal covenant.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Holy Hikes Spring Equinox Event - *Wednesday, March 18th*

You are invited to join Holy Hikes on **Wednesday, March 18th, for their Spring Equinox Liturgy at Church of the Wildwood**! Bring a song, prayer, poem, reading or whatever you're moved to share, and those gathered will create the living liturgy together. Additional event information can be found on Facebook: Spring Equinox liturgy Wednesday, March 18 (join the Facebook event for up-to-date details).

All hikes meet in the Canyon Meadow Staging Area in Redwood Regional Park, Oakland at 12:20pm.

A Call to Peace and End to War - *Responding to Current Events*

We recently awoke to the disturbing news of an attack on Iran and retaliation in several countries in the region. As people who follow the Prince of Peace, we can never make peace with war. Let us all pray for an end to violence in all corners of the earth. May God's peace prevail.

Our Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Sean Rowe, issued this statement in response to current events.

Lenten Study - Living Well *Tuesdays on Zoom*

For the five weeks of Lent on Tuesday evenings, we meet to pray, discuss, and be in fellowship with one another, using the booklet *Living Well Through Lent: Cultivating Healing and Wholeness in Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind.*

We meet on Zoom from 7:00pm-8:00pm. Reflection booklets are available in the Parish Hall or Office. ***Talk to Rev. Lori with any questions.***

Story Bible Study - *March 8 & 15*

Dive deeper into the well-known stories of "The Woman at the Well" and "The Man Born Blind" with two Bible study sessions facilitated by parishioner Brian Cochran.

We will gather in the Education Room on March 8 and 15 from 9:15am-10:00am to explore these stories in depth. Both "The Woman at the Well" and "The Man Born Blind" are the Gospel Readings for their respective Sundays.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Easter Lily Donations - *In Memory & In Thanksgiving*

The Easter season is upon us and soon St. James' Church will be decorated with lovely Easter lily plants. You can provide an Easter lily plant or plants in memory of, or in thanksgiving for, a loved one.

A sign-up sheet for the Easter lily plants is posted at the entrance of both churches and inside the Parish Hall. The names of the donors and the reason for each donation will be placed in the Easter bulletin. The cut-off date for names to be added to the Easter bulletin is Sunday, March 29, 2026.

The suggested donation for each plant is $10.00. There will be envelopes located by the sign-up sheets that can be used for your donation or you may use your pledge envelopes. These envelopes can be dropped into the collection plates or inside the office. **To properly identify your donation, please write on the front of your envelope and on the check memo line "Easter Lily Fund."**

We look forward to celebrating Easter this year at St. James'. ***If you have any questions, please contact Katie Cunningham or Ruth Poole.***

Vestry Meeting Minutes | February 19, 2026

John Amouroux, Senior Warden

The vestry meeting was held on February 19 and was called to order at 7:05pm. It was an in-person meeting conducted in the education room. John led the Opening Prayer. Apologies from: Emily Dunn, Kaethe Langs, Katie Porter, and Matt Hurley.

Monthly Business

- During oral communications Toni suggested that we should try to keep our name tags on at coffee hour to help any new folks learn who we are.
- Toni also mentioned that she has contacted the city of Fremont about the slow stop light timing at Cabrillo and Thornton Ave.
- Lori talked about her Lilly Grant application for a future sabbatical.
- Vestry delayed the vote to approve the January 8 vestry meeting minutes because there wasn't a quorum.
- Reviewed and approved the January financial reports, and accepted the January staff and ministry reports.

New and Continuing Business

- The vote for the Big Church sidewalk repair project was postponed until more bids are obtained.
- A discussion and vote for the distribution of 2025 excess income was done.
  - Funding for Safe Parking and Blessing Bags was approved, among other items.
- Lori discussed the need for a better pulpit/lectern for the Big Church.
  - Offered a specific piece that matches the current lectern.
  - The vestry approved the request.
- Vestry discussed and approved an amended the 2026 Budget.

Reminders

- Newsletter article for March, due February 20, by Gregg
- Vestry Training Day February 28, at St. Paul's Burlingame

The meeting adjourned at 8:39pm, and Lori closed the meeting with Compline. The next vestry meeting will be on Thursday, March 19, in person.

The vestry usually meets on the 3rd Thursdays at 7:00pm, alternating in-person and Zoom meetings through the year.

Draft agendas are published in advance on our parish website.

New & Continuing Vestry Members

John Wagas

Earlier this year at our parish's Annual Meeting, we elected three new vestry members and welcomed them in this new role of service to God and community: Jasmine Reynolds, Toni Shellen, and Scott Whitaker.

We expressed our gratitude for the service of three outgoing vestry members: Marcus Pun, Charisma Pangilinan, and Barbara Vacchieri.

Additionally, John Amouroux is our new Senior Warden and Emily Dunn is our new Junior Warden, and we welcomed them to their new roles in the vestry.

Continuing their valued service to our community are vestry members Gregg Feeney, Burtin Hart, Matt Hurley, Kaethe Langs, Paula McKinney, Bev Mosier, and Katie Porter. In total, we have twelve vestry members.

According to An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church (Church Publishing)*, the basic responsibilities of a congregation's vestry are to "help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances."*

Back (Left to Right)*: Bruce Roberts (Treasurer), Katie Porter, Paula McKinney, Jasmine Reynolds, Matt Hurley, Gregg Feeney, Scott Whitaker, Kaethe Langs*

Front (Left to Right): *Rev. Ingrid Jacobson* (Associate Rector)*, Bev Mosier, Toni Shellen, John Amouroux, Emily Dunn, Rev. Lori Walton (Rector), Burtin Hart, Elizabeth Hart (Vestry Clerk)*

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; all are invited and welcome to join. We gather for a story and talk about the lesson of the week, usually lectionary-based so the whole family will hear the same scripture passages. Afterward, children then return to church in time to join their families for the Liturgy of the Table (also known as the Eucharist or Holy Communion).

Episcopal Youth Fremont

Episcopal Youth Fremont (EYF) is a youth group for those in 6th through 12th grade 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 | January 2026

FUND BALANCES	01/31/25	01/31/26
Operating Fund	82,413.57	116,538.91
Building Fund	108,238.77	97,228.92
Special Interest funds	720,496.52	741,236.570
Pledges Budgeted	31,246.83	36,470.00
Pledges Paid	39,556.03	54,388.310
Unpledged Contributions	935.00	8,296.92
Other Operating Income	1,243.67	1,625.65
Total Operating Income	41,734.70	64,310.88
Total Operating Expenses	36,567.75	44,722.77
Income Less Expenses	5,166.95	19,588.11

Witness in John 9

Brian Cochran

"Though I was blind, now I see!" —John 9:25, NRSV

For Lent I would like to share a story that has become very meaningful to me (translations below are my own). John 9 contains this remarkable story of the transformation of a man born blind. Jesus is walking along and becomes aware of this man. His disciples ask him a question about the cause of this suffering: "Did this fellow sin or his parents?" And Jesus gives a surprising answer. "Neither this fellow or his parents sinned. Rather, it was in order to reveal the works of God in him." He then continues, "We must work the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work." I feel the urgency of Jesus's words even for us today.

Jesus then harkens back to John 8:12, a verse we've been singing lately in church: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." In this chapter he says, "While I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (9:5). The question arises for me, Was Jesus's light only in the world while he lived on earth? I think not. Later in John he promises the disciples that he will come to them again after his death, and the Father and the Holy Spirit too (14:15-23). God, the three-in-one, lives in the disciples and shines through them.

After Jesus teaches his disciples, he surprisingly spits on the ground, makes mud, and spreads it on the man's eyes. He says to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." The man goes and washes and comes back seeing.

Those are the first seven verses of John 9. What follows is an intricate dance of questions and answers, including a complete courtroom drama where the now-seeing man and his parents are called as witnesses and interrogated by the Jewish authorities. Finally, after they throw him out of the synagogue, Jesus returns to the stage and calls the man to dedicate himself to him with this question: "Do you commit to the Son of Man?" Jesus anointed this man's eyes with mud and sent him to a pool to wash, where he gained sight, but the man does not know what he looks like! He asks Jesus, "And who is he, sir, that I may commit to him?" Jesus cryptically answers, "You have both become aware of him and he is the one speaking with you." The man realizes that this is his healer and he begins exclaiming, "I commit, Lord!" And he bows in reverence before him.

Based on his experience of going from blindness to seeing, this beggar becomes a stalwart witness to the power of God in Jesus. ***How have you been healed by God, by Jesus? Have you heard his word to you? Who do you tell about your experience?***

Image by Bro. Martin Erspamer, OSB

New Ceiling Lights Installed in the Little Church

Written by Laura Winter

Photos by Bruce Roberts and Laura Winter

In early February, a skilled team of parishioners gathered in the Little Church to install two beautiful new light fixtures to better illumine our sacred worship space. Dave Nelsen and Ron Larson researched and bought fixtures that complement the church interior.

Once the lights arrived, they called on other parishioners to assist with the installation. Dave, Ron, Charlie Paratore, Al Casas, Bob Doherty, Ken Trant, Don Rose, Bruce Roberts, Laura Winter, and John Amouroux all showed up to create a very smooth operation.

Dave and Charlie climbed high to the top of the ceiling to remove the old spotlights and hang the new fixtures. The others assisted from the floor. Job well done by all!

If you haven't seen the new lights yet, be sure to check them out next time you are on campus.

Lights Installed in the Little Church

(Continued)

Photos by Bruce Roberts and Laura Winter

ALWAYS AT SAINT JAMES'

MARCH 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

Julie, Linda, Barry, David, Elaine, Margaret, Mandy, John, John, Karen, Jim, Betty, Ben, José, Paul, Albert, Roland, Barbara, Gwen, Barbara, George, Nova, Maria, Paloma

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength, & Guidance

David, Derek, Cat, Jo, the Nelson family & Winter-Nelson family, Barbara, Janice, Frank, the Gomez family, Lynn, the Roberts family, Rebecca, the Cook family, Al & the Casas family

For Those Who Have Passed Away

John, Santos, Barbara, Robert, Patricia, Ralph, Roger, Mercedes, Sandra, Sam

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 the third week of the month*** 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, 10am – 1pm*

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
John Amouroux | srwarden@saintj.com

Junior Warden
Emily Dunn | jrwarden@saintj.com

Gregg Feeney
Burtin Hart
Matt Hurley
Kaethe Langs
Paula McKinney
Bev Mosier
Katie Porter
Jasmine Reynolds
Toni Shellen
Scott Whitaker

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