The Window

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

JUNE 2026

Living My Baptismal Covenant in These Times

Jasmine Reypan

Lately, I've been carrying a lot of anxiety, grief, uncertainty, and fear about the world around me. Some days, it's hard to know how to respond faithfully to everything happening. I feel myself pulled toward anger, discouragement, exhaustion, or honestly just wanting to look away from it all for a while.

When I feel that way, I keep coming back to the promises made in my Baptismal Covenant.

I've been thinking a lot lately about how baptism isn't just something that happened a few years ago. It's not only a ceremony I remember fondly or words spoken over me once in church. More and more, I experience it as something ongoing — a way I'm continually being called to live and to see other people.

The promises sound beautiful when we say them together in church: to persevere in resisting evil, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, and to strive for justice and peace while respecting the dignity of every human being. But if I'm honest, those promises can feel really hard to live out right now.

I don't always know what faithful living is supposed to look like in times like these. I don't always know the "right" response to the fear, division, cruelty, and suffering I see around me. Sometimes I feel overwhelmed by it. Sometimes I feel numb. Sometimes I catch myself becoming cynical in ways that don't sit well with me.

The hardest promise for me is respecting the dignity of people whose words or actions feel deeply harmful. I struggle with that more than I'd like to admit. There are moments when anger feels easier than compassion. But I keep returning to prayer. Not because prayer magically fixes my fear or frustration, but because it reminds me that God's still working on me too. Sometimes my prayer is simply, "Help me not lose myself in all of this."

Continued on next page...

Living My Baptismal Covenant *(continued)*

What surprises me is how often faithfulness looks small and ordinary. Sometimes it's just continuing to pray when I feel discouraged. Sometimes it's resisting the urge to live in a constant state of outrage. Sometimes it's checking in on someone, listening more carefully, or trying to stay softhearted when it would feel easier to shut down.

I've also realized how much I need other people in order to keep living into these promises. Left alone with my own fears and anxieties, I can spiral inward pretty quickly. But worship, prayer, community, and even small conversations with people I trust remind me who I am and whose I am.

I don't feel certain about much these days. But I do know that I want my life to keep moving toward compassion instead of bitterness, mercy instead of cynicism, and hope instead of despair.

Right now, living my baptismal covenant means continuing to return to those promises, however imperfectly, and trusting that God is still present in the middle of all of it.

Pentecost & Memorial Day

Photo by Bruce Roberts

During Pentecost Sunday's liturgy, we took time in our Memorial Garden to honor those who served in the armed forces, marking Memorial Day.

For those in the armed forces of our Country
Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. **(*BCP*, p. 823)**

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Weekly Diocesan Newsletter - *Thursday Emails*

Keep in touch with news, updates, resources, and events throughout our diocese with the weekly email newsletter. This email newsletter, formerly known as DioBytes, is released weekly on Thursday and is assembled by the Diocesan Communications Team. **Visit diocal.org/news-events/ to sign up and view past issues.**

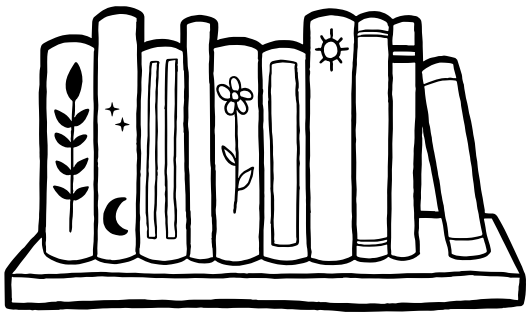
Folks in the diocese are also invited to share events, milestones, and more. **Newsletter submissions are sent to newsletter@diocal.org, and the guidelines for submissions can be found online at diocal.org/news-events/.**

Springtime Book Study

Tuesdays at 7pm on Zoom

This spring's book study continues on Zoom as we wrestle with Hanna Reichel's ***For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional***. Each session begins with a check-in, then we read a chapter together and reflect on the reading, and finally close the gathering with a prayer.

If you missed the first session and are interested in joining in, please contact Rev. Lori. Find the Zoom link HERE on our website.



Corazon Build - June 12-14

Registration is now ***closed*** for the upcoming trip to work with **Corazon Build**, which is scheduled for the weekend of June 12-14.

Contact Rev. Ingrid for the logistics of this year's working pilgrimage and related questions.

Gift Cards to Help Our Neighbors

Occasionally we have people visit church to ask for assistance. It's helpful to have gift cards we can give out with blessing bags when appropriate.

If you'd like to donate a card for us to give, we ask for $25 cards for gas, Safeway, Target, Walmart, or Lucky. ***The gift cards can be given to the wardens or clergy, or left in the office. Thank you.***

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Diocesan Strategic Vision Process - *Implementation Phase*

Subtitled "Rooted in Christ, bearing fruit for the healing of the world," the **Strategic Vision Plan (SVP) is now in its three-year long Implementation Phase**. This plan for our diocese contains prayerful reflections and concrete initiatives/programs/steps to be pursued by all persons—lay and ordained—in the Episcopal Diocese of California.

To read the document, revisit the related five-part video series, find implementation updates, find frequently asked questions, and explore related resources/materials, visit diocal.org/strategic-vision-process.

Holy Hikes - *Golden Gate Park*

On **Wednesday, June 24th** (The Feast of Saint John the Baptist), Holy Hikes invites you on a **Eucharistic walk around Blue Heron Lake (formerly Stow Lake) in Golden Gate Park**, followed by a short walk up to the Prayer Book Cross, where we will conclude the service.

For this event, please gather at the Blue Heron Boathouse (formerly Stow Boathouse - 50 Blue Heron Lake Drive, San Francisco) at 12:20 PM and the hike will begin at 12:30 PM sharp.

The stational Holy Eucharist will follow a fairly flat 1-mile loop around the lake and finish with Holy Communion at the Prayer Book Cross, which is just across JFK Drive and 200 feet up a hill.

Find the Facebook event **HERE**. ***Email The Rev. Justin R. Cannon if you have questions.***

Forward Day by Day

The May through July 2026 edition of the *Forward Day by Day* booklets are available in the back of both churches as well as outside the office.

You may also find this and additional resources online through Forward Movement's website: https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/home.

Closed Captions Available for Zoom Gatherings

We are now in the practice of activating Closed Captions during Zoom sessions. Please don't let hearing concerns prevent you from joining our gatherings, and if you are in a gathering and Closed Captions is not activated, feel free to alert the host. Know that you are welcome and included here!

2026

Summer Family Night

Saturday June 6th
5-7:30pm

Everyone is invited to join us for fellowship, food, activities and compline.

Camp-Out on Campus

Families and individuals are welcome to join us to camp on campus and wake for pancakes and church!

JOIN US!

Any questions? Jan@saintj.com

Vestry Meeting Minutes | May 21, 2026

Emily Dunn, Junior Warden

The vestry meeting was held on Zoom on May 21 and was called to order at approximately 7:00pm. Katie led the Opening Prayer. Apologies from: Scott Whitaker.

Monthly Business

- Reviewed and approved the April financial reports, and accepted the April staff and ministry reports.

New and Continuing Business

- Bruce shared a spreadsheet listing a large number of necessary building repair and maintenance tasks (originally provided by Dave Nelsen), their approximate costs, and who could complete the work.
  - The vestry approved the use of the remaining interest distribution (approximately $30,000) from the special interest account for the completion of these tasks, beginning with the highest priority tasks.
  - Some tasks will have only material costs because the work will be completed by parishioners. Other tasks will be completed by contractors.
- The discussion with the land development team that began in April continued in this meeting.

Reminders

- Family Night will be June 6 from 5-7:30 p.m. (followed by camping overnight for anyone who wishes to do so).
- John's newsletter article for July is due June 20.
- The next vestry meeting will be on Thursday, June 18, on Zoom.
- St. James' Day is Sunday, July 26.
  - Volunteers from the vestry are Paula, Jasmine, Kaethe, Burtin, Gregg, and Emily.
  - It will be John Wagas' last day with us before he goes to seminary in Texas.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20pm, and Katie closed the meeting with Compline.

According to An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church *(Church Publishing), the basic responsibilities of the 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."*

High School Graduate!

Lily Grace Davis

Jan Scrutton

Lily Grace Davis will graduate from Washington High School in June and is heading off to Syracuse University to join their BFA Musical Theater program in the fall.

Lily's hobbies include playing guitar, reading, and cooking, but it is the theater that is her real love. She has played in *Little Women* in high school and in shows, including *The Little Mermaid*, as part of Starstruck Theater. Lily loves the theater because of the stories she gets to tell and the unique connection that can be formed between the audience and performers.

Lily remembers first coming to St. James' in fall of 2019, when her first service was the St. Francis of Assisi animal blessing. She is grateful for the community of St. James' and all the support she has received.

If you'd like to see Lily onstage, she will play Katherine in the Starstruck performance of *Newsies* this summer. She says the show includes incredible dancing and ensemble work throughout, as well as a powerful message about how young people can have a huge impact on the world around them. We look forward to seeing the impact Lily will have on the world!

***Tickets for* Newsies *can be purchased from starstrucktheatre.org*.**

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 grades 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 | APRIL 2026

FUND BALANCES	04/2025	04/2026
Operating Fund	58,421.16	69,443.79
Building Fund	125,254.88	104,351.84
Special Interest funds	282,163.06	315,465.41
Pledges Budgeted	124,987.32	145,880.00
Pledges Paid	127,185.04	139,384.75
Unpledged Contributions	7,394.95	14,424.92
Other Operating Income	8,811.09	8,826.19
Total Operating Income	143,391.08	162,635.86
Total Operating Expenses	145,921.91	170,058.70
Income Less Expenses	(2,530.83)	(7,422.84)

MONTHLY PRAYER LIST

For Those in the Military

Matthew, Luis, Laura

For Those Who Need Healing & Comfort

Julie, Linda, David, Elaine, Margaret, John, Karen, Jim, Barbara, Nova, Marlene, Jessica, Ariana, Marilyn, Jeff & Terry, JJ & family, Terri, Leo, Teresa, George, Linda, Rose Marie, Megan & Lucy, Lupe, Alice, Barry, Susan, Steve, Dana, Rick

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength & Guidance

David, Derek, Cat, the Gomez family, Martha, the Bourne family, Brian, the Cochran family, June, Karen & family, Rosa, Juan & family, the Stiver family

For Those Who Have Passed Away

Pat, Julia, Alan, Polly, Virginia, Tom T., Lisa

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.

The list is found in our weekly emails and monthly newsletter. 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.

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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 Reypan
Toni Shellen
Scott Whitaker

Vestry Clerk **Elizabeth Hart**

CONVENTION DELEGATES

Bev Mosier
Mike Scrutton
Ken Trant
John Wagas

Alternate to Convention **Isaiah Zachariah**

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**
Meg Amouroux **Katie Porter**