The Window

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

AUGUST 2026

Seek and Serve Christ in All Persons

Emily Dunn

In February when the vestry chose the theme "living our baptism or baptismal covenant in these times" for this year's newsletter articles, many aspects of "these times" looked pretty grim – wars, human divisions, widespread uncertainty, and natural disasters – and almost six months later, the situation is not very different. If I focus on these things too much, it can all feel overwhelming and defeating. I am learning that while awareness of current events is reasonable, my focus needs to be on people and relationships. When I think about our baptismal covenant, the one phrase to which I keep returning this year is "seek and serve Christ in all persons."

When I think about "all persons," words in the Book of Common Prayer's Order for Compline (nighttime prayers) are never far from my mind:
"Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night...."
"Give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted...."
"Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep...."
"Grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil...."
These words remind me about those who work vital night-shift jobs; those who are grieving; those whose weariness, suffering, and afflictions I cannot fathom; those who repair our roads, maintain our infrastructure, clean our public places, sew our clothes, and grow, harvest, and transport our food; those whose lives, experiences, and homes may be far from my own, but without whom I very nearly could not live. The words of these prayers keep me grounded. The words of these prayers remind me that my own problems are quite small, that our world is vast, and that we need one another.

I don't have all the answers for what it looks like to seek and serve Christ in all persons, but the call is clear – all persons. Seek and serve Christ in those near and far, in those with whom I agree or disagree, in those I understand and in those I do not understand, in those similar to me and in those very

Continued on next page...

Seek and Serve Christ in All Persons *(continued)*

different from me. Seek the image of God in each person, and serve each person, just as Jesus came not to be served but to serve.

I may not understand the details of a person's life, their background, why they act the way they do, or why they make the choices they make. I may not know their burdens, their fears, or their hopes, but I can strive to seek and serve Christ in all persons – with God's help. I can be an agent of compassion, mercy, grace, and maybe even reconciliation – with God's help. May we say it all together: we will, with God's help, seek and serve Christ in all persons.

Godspeed John Wagas, and Thank You!

Laura Winter

John preached his last sermon at St. James' on Sunday, July 26, at least for now. August marks the beginning of the next phase of his life, as he starts studying for the priesthood at seminary in Austin, Texas. The parish sent him off with our good wishes and prayers during our St. James' Feast Day worship and celebration.

John began worshipping at St. James' five years ago, in the middle of the pandemic, on Zoom, from home. Once we all returned to church together, John joined right in, becoming a vital part of our parish. He created our worship bulletins for a number of years, joined Altar Guild, and became a member of *The Window* newsletter team.

John's deep spirituality shines through to everyone he meets, and many could see he is destined for priesthood. We look forward to following his progress to and through the day he is ordained!

I personally thank him for teaching us new skills for creating the newsletter. His patience and ability to teach will help us continue to represent St. James' to all.

Vestry Meeting Minutes | July 2026

Emily Dunn, Junior Warden

The vestry meeting was held on July 16, 2026 and was called to order at 7:00pm. Toni Shellen led the Opening Prayer. Burtin Hart and Katie Porter were absent.

Monthly Business

- Reviewed and approved the June financial reports.
- Accepted the June vestry meeting minutes.
- Accepted the June staff and ministry reports.

New and Continuing Business

- Bruce requested the creation of a campus care team email group.
- John thanked Bruce and Dave for their work on the new door for the shed.
- Toni announced an interfaith vigil taking place in late July.
- Bruce reported on the slightly increased rate (an extra 1.34 cents per kilowatt hour) for our PG&E Renewable 100% plan. Bruce also reported that we have a new budget deficit and that pledges received are lower than pledges expected.
- The vestry approved expenses for Sunrise Village dinner, freezer repairs, and a lawnmower purchase.
- An email vote for Eucharistic Minister albs was also recorded.
- There was a discussion about the decision to move the church's banking to Fremont Bank. This decision was prompted by Heritage Bank's acquisition by Citizens Business Bank and the new unfavorable terms it would have imposed on St. James'. Funds will be moved in stages, and Citizens Business Bank accounts will stay open until all checks clear.
- Paula also reported on preparations for St. James' Day.
- The tentative date for Stewardship Sunday is November 8th.

Reminders

- Bev's newsletter article for September is due August 20.
- The next vestry meeting will be on August 20th on Zoom.

Toni 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."

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Healing Prayer and Anointing

Beginning in August, all are welcome to visit our Healing Station at the 8:00am and 10:30am services on the first Sunday of each month for individual prayer and anointing with blessed oil. Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians have prayed for God's healing, strength, and peace, trusting in Christ's compassionate presence. The anointing with oil is an ancient biblical sign of the Holy Spirit's comfort, healing, and blessing. Whether you seek healing of body, mind, or spirit, or simply desire God's presence in your life, you are invited to come and receive this sacred ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Ladies Flatlanders - *Sign Up by August 9 for September 17-20, 2026*

Ladies Flatlanders returns to Pajaro Dunes on Monterey Bay the weekend of September 17-20 this year. All women are welcome for a weekend away filled with fun, fellowship, food, and faith. The approximate cost for the weekend is $300+/- depending on how many attend. This includes the house rental and meals. Each person is asked to bring either an appetizer or dessert to share, plus snacks and drinks. All pitch in to cook and clean up the meals. Open to all women 21 and older and carpooling is available to get you there. Join us for beach walks, games and puzzles, s'mores on the beach, and great conversations!

Contact Nancy Castaneda, Mary Casas, or Laura Winter with questions. The sign-up sheet with their contact numbers is in the Parish Hall. Please reserve your spot by Sunday, August 9th!

Men's Mountain Trip - *Sign Up Now for August 13-16, 2026*

The Men's Group still has room for more on our trip to Twain Harte. If you're new to St. James' or are a long-established parishioner, come up and join us Thursday, August 13th to Sunday, August 16th, for a time to relax and hang with a good group of guys. We play golf, fish, hike, go wine and beer tasting, and visit the local sights. The cost is $250, which covers lodging, meals, and nonalcoholic beverages.

The sign-up sheet is posted in the parish hall and feel free to contact Gregg Feeney by phone (510-506-2303) or email (dgfeeney@comcast.net) with any questions.

Senior Lunch - Sign Up for Thursday, August 27th, at 12noon

Our next Senior Lunch will be held at noon on Thursday, August 27th. Suggested donation toward expenses is $5. **You may sign up in the Parish Hall, call the church office (510-797-1492), or email Jan.** All are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Devotionals - *Available Now*

The August through October 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 at Forward Movement's website: https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/home

Coffee Hour:
More Than Coffee

Rev. Lori Walton

One of the most sacred moments of our Sunday morning doesn't happen in the pews, it happens around the coffee pot.

Coffee hour is where worship continues. It's where new-comers are welcomed, friendships are formed, burdens are shared, laughter is heard, and Christ's love is lived out in simple conversations over a cup of coffee and a plate of treats. Hospitality is not an "extra" ministry of the Church; it is at the heart of who we are as followers of Jesus.

Jesus reminds us, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve." As Christians, we are called to look for opportunities to serve one another with joy and generosity. Sometimes that service looks like teaching, singing in the choir, serving on the altar guild, or caring for those in need. Sometimes it looks as simple as setting out a plate of cookies, washing a few dishes, or wiping down a table after everyone has gone home.

Many faithful members of St. James' already give generously of their time in countless ways, and we are deeply grateful for every ministry that makes our life together possible.

If coffee hour is one of the ways you experience the warmth and fellowship of our parish family, we invite you to help make it possible for everyone.

Beginning in September, we are asking people to sign up for a three-month block to help clean up during coffee hour. We are also going to be asking parishioners to bring something to share with others. Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board near the kitchen door.

Please consider signing up to bring something to share for the coffee hour or to help with cleanup after the 10:30am coffee hour. When many hands share the work, no one carries the burden alone, and together we create a space where everyone feels welcomed and cared for.

After all, coffee hour isn't just about coffee. It's about practicing the hospitality of Christ, one cup, one conversation, and one act of service at a time.

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, returns on Sunday, August 16th, and 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), a youth group for 6th- through 12th-graders based at St. James', returns Sunday, August 16th, from 6:00 to 8:00pm and meets during the school year. Contact Jan for info about EYF and to express interest in our youth confirmation program. ***Any questions about our programs for children or youth? Email our Children & Youth Minister Jan Scrutton at jan@saintj.com.***

FINANCIAL SUMMARY | JUNE 2026

FUND BALANCES	06/2025	06/2026
Operating Fund	67,270.47	57,320.02
Building Fund	95,829.56	100,853.67
Special Interest funds	256,933.40	761,287.89
Pledges Budgeted	187,480.98	218,820.00
Pledges Paid	191,779.96	190,523.59
Unpledged Contributions	12,299.99	20,274.92
Other Operating Income	13,997.90	12,426.73
Total Operating Income	218,077.85	223,225.24
Total Operating Expenses	211,950.27	248,253.85
Income Less Expenses	6,127.58	(25,028.61)

GOAL!

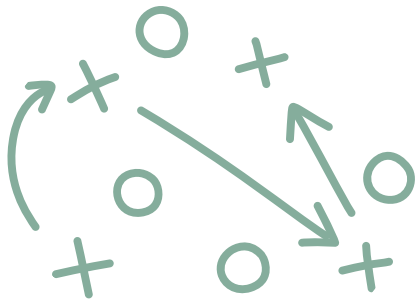
Brian Cochran

The World Cup has gotten me thinking about soccer and games in general. In game theory, every game has six elements: people, place, and a time; rules, special equipment, and an aim. There are many types of games, some competitive and others which don't have clearcut winners and losers. I used to really love winning card and board games.

One surprising thing about soccer that the World Cup reminded me of is how hard it is to score a goal. Some early World Cup matches were 0-0 ties (including Spain v. tiny Cape Verde)! Argentina just beat England 2-1 in the seminfinals after being behind most of the game 1-0. This is very different than American football or basketball. In soccer, strategy and endurance are crucial, not just talent and skill.

In professional sports, there is always a winner and a loser. In other games, life games, the winners and losers can be harder to determine. Games like education, politics, government, art, and religion can have elements of competition, but the aims are not as cut and dried as in sports.

To me the highest game is the Godly game, and the aim can be expressed as union with God. Reaching this goal is hard. The classic path is through purifying (purgation) and illumination or union with Christ, and then on to the unitive state, where we are in constant contemplation of God's presence and glory, within and without. We also call this salvation, deliverance, or eternal life. In the Gospel of John, we have the beautiful image of Jesus turning water into wine. This could be meant to describe the conversion of an ordinary life into one filled with the Spirit. Our ordinary natural life is fine and good, like water, though a little chaotic and always running to the lowest spot. When Jesus gets involved with us, we will be transformed into a totally different kind of a person. We will be the same person, but we will be different. We will not be chaotic but instead focused and at peace. The storm will be stilled and we will be where we want to be, like in the story of Jesus walking on the water and meeting the struggling disciples in John 6 (or in the other Gospels).



How do we reach this goal (or aim)? By following Jesus, who said, "I am the way." All of Jesus's promises point to this goal. Peace, joy, and love. These are the primary fruits of the Spirit. They are reached through learning the truth that the human Jesus learned, reflecting on that truth, praying to God the Father about that truth, and rest in God as truth. The truth is expressed throughout the Holy Scriptures in various ways and stories and distilled down to the name of God, which is "I am." When we learn, reflect on, pray to God about, and rest in this name, our faith can be purified. Our souls can be illumined. Our lives can be united with Christ. Our water can become wine.

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GOAL! *(Continued)*

The church is one expression of this process. The worship service contains the truth. We can reflect on the various parts of the service and thereby reach our goal. So reflect on a hymn, or the Collect for Purity ("Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, . . ."), or the Gloria, or the readings, or the sermon, or the Prayers of the People, or the various parts of the Eucharist, and so on. Any and all of it expresses the same thing: God is Ultimate Reality, and we are part of God's reality. As the prayer after communion says, "You have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son."

Of course, this takes some commitment and endurance on our part, but God meets us more than halfway and helps us release our arrogance and doubt, our woundedness and shame. We can reach the goal, which is God, which is love, and live in that love forever. Let us press on.

Closed Captioning on Zoom

We are now in the practice of activating Closed Captions (CC) during congregational 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.

Looking for Zoom Links?

With so many Zoom gatherings happening during the week, it can be difficult to keep track of all the links. A reminder that all our Zoom links can be found on our website, **www.saintj.com**, with the calendar on the right side of the home page.

For every event, you will find the Zoom link. This enables you quick access to our gatherings and eliminates the need for you to track each event or to sift through your email to find it.

Parishioner Recommendations

With thanks to our parishioners, the St. James' Recommendations List is available on the website

Visit our Parish Life page HERE and look for "Community Recommendations," where you'll find the link to the list.

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, Michelle, Jacob, Joan, Heidi, Maurice, Charlie, Marilyn, Amy

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength, & Guidance

David, Derek, Cat, the Gomez family, Martha, the Bourne family, Karen & family, Kevin, Claudia, Sally

For Those Who Have Passed Away

Kenda, Johanna, Zitel

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, 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 August 20th*** to ensure it's included in the September issue.

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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
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***

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