



St. James United Church
Announcements
Palm Sunday - April 2, 2023

Upcoming Events:

- **Thurs. Apr. 6th – 7pm - Maundy Thursday** hosted at St. James United
 - **Fri. Apr. 7th – 11am - Good Friday - Innispirit Service with Choir at Churchill UC**
 - **Sun. Apr. 9th - about 6:25am - Innispirit Easter Sunrise Service** at Belle Ewart Park, Lefroy
 - **Sun. Apr. 9th – 10am - Halleluiah! Easter Sunday Service** at SJUC
 - **Sun. Apr. 16th – 10am – Worship Service**
 - **Mon. Apr. 17th - 1pm – UCW Meeting** (upper room)
 - **Sun. Apr. 23rd – 10am – Worship Service**
 - **Sun. Apr. 30th – 10am – Worship Service**
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Thank you to this Sunday's volunteers who make our time of gathering meaningful & fun.

Greeters: Hilary Mallett

Lay Reader(s): Shirley Parker

Refreshments: Barb Johnston & Thelma Allen

This week in worship...



Over 2,000 years ago Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, while the people felt that all their hopes and dreams for being free of the oppression of Roman rule was riding on the animals' back. Yet, we know that in just a few short days from that time, many of the very same people would be watching and even cheering while cuts were whipped upon His back before being led to His crucifixion.

Thus begins the days leading up to the Last Supper (Maundy Thursday), his suffering and death (Good Friday),

and finally, his resurrection (Easter Sunrise and church service).

Take advantage of this perceived negative time, and turn it positive by remembering the ideals and meanings behind Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter in our thoughts.

This Sunday in worship we celebrate holy communion, and hear words of reflection as the end becomes a new beginning.

A PALM SUNDAY REFLECTION TO THINK ABOUT...



If I Can Be the Donkey

Corrie Ten Boom was a famous Christian whose testimony of suffering in Nazi concentration camps and God's grace through it all touched millions of lives. A few years ago, in a press conference following a ceremony in which Corrie Ten Boom was given an honorary degree, one of the reporters asked her if it was difficult remaining humble while hearing so much acclaim. She replied immediately, "Young man, when Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments in the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" She continued, "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor."

~ from Mike Hamby, *The Triumphal Entry*

The Tomb Is Easier than the Cross

By: Jeffrey K. London, *And When You Think It's All Over*



In just a matter of days Holy Week takes us from the mountain of festive palms to the mountain of Golgatha's despair. And that is why we resist it so. Do we really need the emotional rollercoaster of Holy Week? What's so wrong with just jumping from one parade to the next and skipping all the sacrifice and death stuff? What's wrong with simply moving on to the joy of Easter, with its white bonnets, Easter eggs, family, friends, big ham dinner, and of course, the empty tomb?

Well, I think we know the answer to that. For starters, an empty tomb, at face value, is a lot easier to deal with than a dying, bleeding Saviour on a cross. Add to that all the pain and suffering that comes with Holy Week, is it any wonder that the human tendency is to try and ignore the events of the week and simply move on to the Easter celebration? But as much as we'd like to skip Holy Week, we know that the only way to Easter is through the cross. We know where the parade of Palm Sunday leads and we also know that we're part of that parade. That is to say, we know this intellectually.

Our hearts are another story. Our hearts may be more in sync with the disciples and the fear and disbelief that led them to run away. It would seem that 2000 years later Jesus' disciples ***are still running away.*** †



Are **YOU** going to run away?

Or will you take the entire journey with Jesus through Holy Week?

Here are the times & places for you to experience the Easter story.

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| 🕯️ Sun. Apr. 2 nd – 10am | Palm Sunday Communion |
| 🕯️ Thurs. Apr. 6 th – 6pm | Maundy Thursday – Innispirit Service hosted at St. James United. A meal reflecting Jesus' last supper is included. |
| 🕯️ Fri. Apr. 7 th – 11am | Good Friday - Innispirit Service hosted at Churchill United. |
| 🕯️ Sun. Apr. 9 th - 6:25am | Innispirit Easter Sunrise Service - BELLE EWART Park in Lefroy, followed by breakfast hosted at Grange Hall |
| 🕯️ Sun. Apr. 9 th – 10am | Halleluiah! Easter Sunday Service |

Shining Waters Region 10

The **Shining Waters Region 10 UCW Annual Meeting** will be held *Tuesday May 2nd 2023* from *9:15 am to 6 pm* at *Burton Avenue United Church, Barrie*. Pat Edmonds has the pre-registration forms for UCW members wishing to attend. The form must be submitted by April 10th and, if meals are required, the cost is lunch \$20.00 and dinner \$25.00. Cheque must be submitted with the form.

Keeping in Touch

1. It was great to chat with past minister **Jim Thompson** and his wife Louise recently. They had downsized their Orillia home a few years ago, trading homes with their son Alec. Like all of us, they have a few aches and pains but daily walks and grand-parenting help to keep them young. Jim & Louise have joined a weekly learning circle at St. Paul's United Church, focusing on the book "Turning Ourselves Inside Out" – stories proving to be a source of hope and courage, as God renews and revives His people in modern times. Their travel plans include a driving trip west this summer, with sailing and visiting as priorities. Hello to everyone from Jim and Louise. ~ Author: Donna Wice

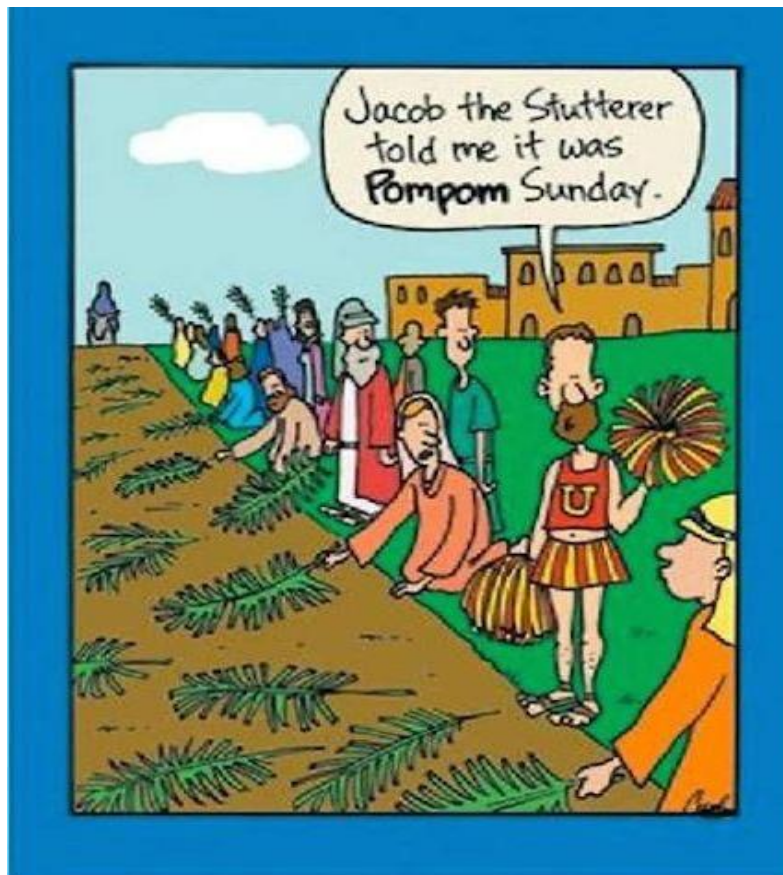
2. I had a lovely conversation with **Anne Dee** by phone this week. Her bright, sunny outlook in life was constant as she asked about everyone at St. James, rather than dwelling on her health challenges of late.

Anne had a nice visit from her son Larry (who lives in B.C.) while her other son Jack and his wife took a long-awaited trip down south. One of Anne's greatest blessings is the love and support that she constantly receives from her family. She misses the active life she had when she could come out on Sundays, but she reads our announcements every week and loves to hear what is going on at church. Anne says "Hi" to everyone at St. James; she thinks of us often, as we think of her too! ~ Author: Pastor Patricia

Outreach

You will remember that I did a mission trip to Nicaragua before Covid with the Open Hands committee, at Burton Avenue UC in Barrie. To continue our outreach, our Open Hands Canada group at Burton Avenue UC has arranged a youth exchange to the Miawpukek First Nation in Conne River, Newfoundland, July 3-10. They will attend the Pow Wow weekend.

Fundraising is underway: walk-a-thon (May 13), Coffee House night, paddle-a-thon, and "A Taste of the Rock" - an evening of Newfoundland culture and cuisine on Sat. June 10. This is a cold plate dinner with musical entertainment by Sandy Bottom Boys, a Sandycove Band with Newfoundland music. There is also a silent auction. For more info see **Heather Walker**.



Your Generosity Matters: Your Generosity Increases Food Security



In Zambia, [Merit Mabenga](#) has felt the deep impacts of climate change. Droughts are killing her crops, necessities are scarce, and prices are soaring far beyond her modest reach. But your support through Mission & Service is helping Merit and her family not just to survive, but also to thrive.



Together for the Love of Creation: Earth Week 2023!



During Earth Week 2023, The United Church of Canada is joining with numerous denominations and faith-based organizations under one banner, [Together for the Love of Creation](#).

Communities of faith, networks, and regions are invited to initiate and participate in climate justice events during the week of April 16–23 to pray, learn, and act for the love of creation.

Find out more, and how can you [take action towards climate change](#).



What is happening at Churchill & Gilford United Churches...

LENTEN GROUPS & WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Bible Study – Open to all, tea/coffee and fellowship, Thursdays 10:30 at Gilford

Prayer Yoga – all welcome, Wednesdays 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Churchill

Choir Practice for Good Friday – Sundays after Service 12:15 pm at Churchill

Quilting/Crafts – Meet Tuesdays at 10:00 am at the Manse

Faith and Fellowship Ladies –the last Monday/month, Churchill 7 pm

Bridge Group – Play Tuesdays at 1 pm Gilford



Simcoe Singers present
IT'S ABOUT TIME

Saturday April 29th, 2023 7:00 pm
Bethel Community Church
128 St. Vincent Street

For Tickets call Janice
705-487-0508
\$12 Adults \$5 Students

BARRIE FOOD BANK

Please support the Barrie Food Bank and bring donations

*Please submit all announcements via e-mail to Heather Thompson by noon on Tuesdays.
Thank you!*