



St. James United Church
Announcements
Summer Worship Continues
August 27, 2023

Upcoming Events:

- Thurs. Aug. 31st – 9 am to 12 pm - EDGE Committee Meeting (sanctuary)
- Sun. Sept. 3rd – 10 am – Hymn Service & *Welcome Back Sundaes Sunday*
Join your church family for lunch after the service! We'll be having hot dogs and make-your-own ice cream sundaes! Donations to cover expenses would be appreciated.
- Sun. Sept. 10th – 10 am – Worship Service. Sunday School resumes. (Changed from Sept. 3)
- Sun. Sept. 17th – 10 am – South Simcoe Church Cluster Picnic in Bradford. Details coming soon!
- Tues. Sept. 19th – 9:30 am – Board Meeting (upper hall)
- Sun. Sept. 24th – 10 am – Worship Service



Thank you to this Sunday's volunteers who make our time of gathering meaningful & fun:

Greeter: Lorraine Stapleton? Or Cunningham? (Sorry...it wasn't written down)

Lay Reader: Mary McGrath

Refreshments: Shirley Parker

This Week in Worship ...with Pastor Patricia

Hello everyone!

I thought of you every morning and night as I lifted my prayers to God, asking for safety, protection and the joy of finding summer fun for each of you!

I **thoroughly** enjoyed my holidays here in Ontario and out in Calgary, but it is nice to be back from my extended vacation; I missed my church family! A very sincere thank you to **EVERYONE** who shared their gift of ministry while I was away. Clearly, I am replaceable!!!



This week we begin to prepare ahead for a new season. The long season of Ordinary Time (the Sundays after Pentecost which explore the mission of the church) ends on

September 3rd. With the end of Ordinary Time, we move into the season of Creation. Our hymn sing next week will also lead us closer into the season of Creation, a time of celebration of prayer and action to protect all of creation.

This week we look at the women who found ways to undermine the Pharaoh's orders to throw all baby boys into the river, thereby saving baby Moses. They encourage us to look at ourselves as we are called into a deeper experience of trusting God's grace and life as we confront rages against human creation that we know are wrong.

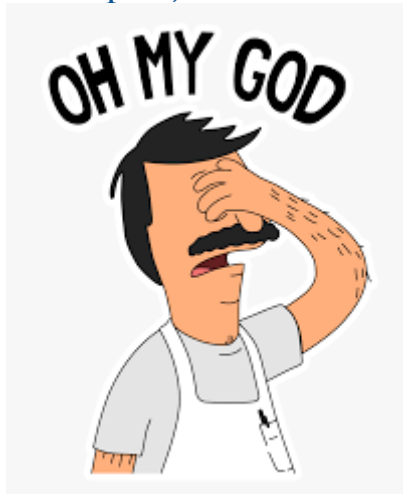
I look forward to seeing you there on Sunday!

~ Pastor Patricia

**I came across this article in the United Church of Canada Gathering Magazine, Gathering Lent-Easter 2023, Year A
Perhaps you will find it as thought provoking as I did.
It was written by Wendy MacLean, Poet, Lyricist, and Ministry of Spiritual Direction, Brockville, Ont.**

INSPIRATIO ~

From the Latin *inspiro*, to breathe into, to inspire.



Oh. My. God.

This is probably the most common extemporaneous prayer ever. It is odd that people change "God" to "gosh" to avoid swearing. Is this an expletive or a prayer? Maybe an expletive is prayer at its most raw: beyond an object or subject, past any niceties or formalities. Could this outburst be just a

cry of lament, or joy, or surprise? And is it possible that God can figure out what we mean, without any added details? Nothing fancy.

At the heart of extemporaneous prayer is our way of imagining God's presence and interaction with us. How do we address God in public? OMG. Seems to me, that's how Jesus prayed. "My God, my God..." from the cross. "OMG" from Mary at the tomb. Nothing fancy.

The best extemporaneous prayer is always available to us: Silence.

Adoration. Praise. Lament. Confession. All these prayers are pronounced without words, when we pause and breathe.

*As a child I learned to pray
with my hands folded and my eyes closed.
Now when I pray with friends
I find my hands open, like a bowl
to catch my confession, to hold my fears
and the prayers my friends have trusted me to pray.*

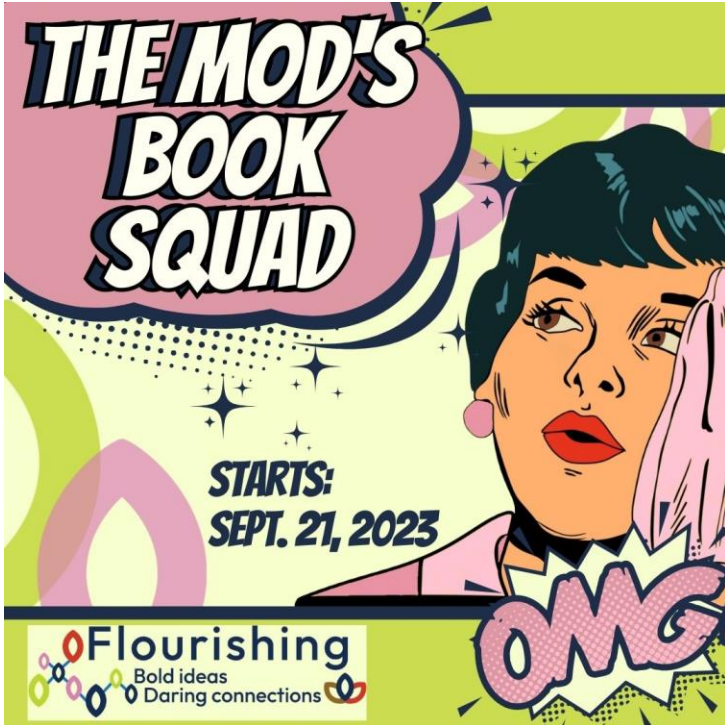
*An old man told me: "My father never said he loved me."
My father. Our Father, who art in heaven.
OMG, may he know your love.
An old woman corrected me
when I offered "a little prayer."
"There is no little prayer," she said,
hallowing each word. Hearing God's name in all creation.*

*Our bodies pray unceasingly
in each breath.
In a moment of silence
we tune our ears to the whispering, chanting vigil
of the earth praying in us, in vein and artery,
keeping time with hearts
opening and closing, breaking and healing.
OMG, may I be vigilant to your prayer happening
as I fumble and wonder what words to share.*

*OMG, OMG, in each word, I come close to you.
OH: such awe, such bliss.
MY: own, our own, your own: we belong to each other.
GOD: such a small word for such wondrous life in us.
Oh my God, my heart, my soul: breathe in me
in this prayer, this pause
I humbly offer in your name. AMEN.*



The Mod's Book Squad Is Starting Soon!



We are excited for [The Mod's Book Squad](#) to start next month! Sign up for all the fun in one of Canada's largest online book clubs on [CHURCHx](#).

When you purchase two or more books featured in [The Mod's Book Squad Collection](#) from the United Church Bookstore you'll receive 15% off your purchase with the discount code **MODSQUAD** (applied at checkout). This offer is also compatible with the promotional code **FREESHIPPING** to access free shipping on orders of \$100 or more!

Follow the United Church Bookstore's Instagram account [@Faith in our Books](#) for more content and an exciting upcoming giveaway to get you started in the club!

COP28: UN Climate Change Young Adult Delegation



The United Church of Canada is sending a small delegation of [young adults to COP28](#), the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Delegates will participate, learn, and advocate at COP and share to the wider church and beyond to bring attention to and grow support for climate justice. This opportunity is for interested young adults (ages 19-35). **Deadline: Sept. 13, 2023.**

Community:

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»» NEWSLETTER

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AUGUST 2023

CALL FOR INFO: 705-220-7198



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AUGUST 26 – 27 2023

**John Snake Multipurpose Grounds
6030 Rama Road, Rama First Nation**



GRAND ENTRY FRI AUG 26 12PM & 7PM; SAT AUG 27 12PM

\$10 DAY/\$15 WKND; FREE FOR KIDS UNDER 12 AND SENIORS

<https://www.facebook.com/RamaPowWow>

Maybe you will see Pastor Patricia with her grandchildren and Red Hat group walking about!

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