



St. James United Church

Announcements

February 5, 2023

Upcoming Events:

- **Sun. Feb. 12th – 10am - Annual Congregational Meeting** (see details on next page)
 - **Mon. Feb. 13th – 1pm – UCW Meeting** (upper room)
Attention UCW Members: Roll call for February's meeting is items for Elizabeth Fry. We have been told that they need new underwear and pyjamas, not hygiene items, as they require women to have everything new when they come to the home. Please bring these to the meeting.
 - **Sun. Feb. 19th – 10am – Worship Service / Inclement Weather Date for ACM**
 - **Sun. Feb. 26th – 10am – Baden Powell Service**
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THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP... *from Pastor Patricia*



Everyone at St. James knows how I feel about hymn-singing. While I may not have the voice to lead, I enthusiastically join in with enthusiasm, passion and devotion!

I will forever remember singing "Here I Am Lord" at an old Presbytery gathering. When the song was over, the person in front of me turned around and smiled, and said, "I just had to see who was singing with such enthusiasm," I don't know what he was *really* trying to tell me, but I took it as a compliment!

This is the first Sunday of the month. and we continue our new tradition of experiencing song as a way to interpret and express our faith. This Sunday, we connect our voices as one and sing our praise to God together.

Whether you can share some harmony, sing with the best, or simply sing with enthusiasm, come out on Sunday and let's lift our faith to the rafters!

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

Greeter: Ross & Doreen Parker

Lay Reader: Pat Edmonds

Refreshments: Roberta Noble & Shirley King



Many people are called to courageously step forward to give leadership in worship. We have wonderful people who stand together with me as we lead our Sunday Worship together.

You know who they are... they are the ones who lead us through our Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Confession and Assurance, the scripture reading... and as they say, "other duties as assigned by Patricia!" LOL Thank you to the Lay Readers who share their leadership on Sunday mornings! Your ministry is truly appreciated.

**This is a reminder
that the sign-up sheet for Lay Reader is in the Upper Room
where we gather for fellowship.
If you are interested in being a reader, let me know and we can
make that happen!!
Pastor Patricia**

Finance

1. *Tax Receipts for 2022 donations are now available.* Please pick them up from Silvia Leibundgut.
2. Our weekly offering is both a practical and symbolic act of our commitment to serve Christ and build the church.

Although we can't actually 'pass the plate' online, you are encouraged to continue your gift to the church as the work of SJUC continues into 2023.

How?

- Drop off or mail your cheque to the church at 2230 Victoria St. W., Innisfil, ON L9S 1K5
- Go on PAR (call the church for details); or
- See our website for a link to *Canada Helps*, where you can donate online and get an instant tax receipt.

Thank you for your support!



The [Annual Congregational Meeting](#) will be held next week, on *Sunday, February 12, 2023* with an inclement weather date of February 19. The meeting will be an in-person meeting in the sanctuary. A shortened worship service will prelude the meeting, which will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Muffins and coffee will be served at 9:30 a.m. in the Upper Room prior to the meeting. There will be no refreshments after the meeting.

We require a quorum of 20 in attendance for an annual meeting. Please attend this important annual meeting to carry out the work of the church.

The 2022 Annual Report will be emailed to those who receive announcements. Please read and review the report before the meeting on February 12th. If you do not receive the announcements, a limited number of paper copies of the report will be available at the church service on Sunday, February 5th.



If Pigs Could Fly!

Meet **MS PIGGY** – She is a very large, shiny, silver piggy-bank decorated with the hands and feet of Christ and is a member of St. James United Church in the Town of Innisfil. And yes – she can fly! She doesn't have wings but the prayers and monetary donations to MS PIGGY fly all over the world; everywhere that the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada reaches.



Every month, MS PIGGY sits front and centre during the service and receives donations as members of the congregation, young and older alike, share the celebrations in their lives. Some share stories of special anniversaries, birthdays, the safe arrival of grandchildren or great grandchildren and visiting family or friends. Others simply celebrate their joy of being alive or the wonderful feeling that comes on a beautiful sunny day. Prayers of thankfulness for a cancer-free check-up, or good news

concerning medical tests are also cause for celebration. Even the winning hockey goal scored by a grandchild is celebrated in a tangible way. Since MS PIGGY's arrival, about \$1000 in extra donations have been collected annually for the Mission and Service Fund.

“Celebrating with MS PIGGY is better than texting or Facebook! We not only learn about what is going on in our church family, but we are ensuring that other communities around the world have occasion to celebrate as they receive the benefits of M & S sponsored projects. It's a double blessing!” says one member.

MS PIGGY has indeed brought us closer as a church family. We feel a part of each other's lives. Members of the congregation whom we rarely see during the week, except for an hour or so on Sunday, are able to share what is happening in a very meaningful way. Initially, some were reluctant to come forward to the mike and share their special moments, but the level of comfort is increasing and now, often, there is a line-up stretching down the aisle as members are eager to share their lives and their resources.

As a faith community we have begun to realize how truly blessed we are. Things like sunshine, clean air and water, relationships with family and friends, the beauty of each season, and good health are no longer taken for granted. They have become reasons to celebrate.

As we celebrate our good fortune with MS PIGGY, we are also reminded of the need for prayer and how God answers prayers through us, his disciples. Often the stories shared with MS PIGGY are included in our personal prayers over the coming week; prayers of thankfulness for our blessings and prayers for others less fortunate than we.

MS PIGGY has also helped us appreciate the contributions of the volunteers in our church family. We celebrate the continued work of an active UCW unit, the beauty of the church gardens tended by volunteers, the new paint job or the work of the yard clean-up crew in spring. Previously things like these were seldom mentioned unless someone thought to put a thank-you in the church announcements. Now members feel free to come forward and express publicly their thanks for a job well-done by volunteers.

MS PIGGY has done much more than raise money for the Mission & Service Fund. She has had a significant impact on our life as a church community. As our contributions and prayers fly around the world, our lives are enriched with knowledge of ourselves and others, and we have a greater sense of our global role as members of the United Church of Canada.

Watch for MS PIGGY'S return on February 5th!

A Big Yummy Thank You!!

There were 24 of us who braved the snow and driving conditions on Sunday to listen to Pastor Patricia's dynamic reflection on the Beatitudes!!!

OR

was it because Doreen and Ross had prepared a *delicious* sloppy joe luncheon for us??? Hmmmmm.

A big, yummy thank you to Doreen and Ross (and their helpers) for the sloppy joes, coleslaw and pickles that filled our plates.

AND...

Thank you to the birthday cake makers who baked up a few awesome birthday cakes, as we finally returned to Birthday Sundays.

Happy birthday to Ross and Erika who celebrated birthdays in January!

FYI...

As we continue our monthly fellowship luncheons and birthday celebrations, Clasina has kindly offered to bring in something equally delicious (or better!) for the gluten-free eaters.

Thanks, Clasina!

Sunday School Room Clean-up

If anyone has left items in any of the 3 Sunday school rooms downstairs that don't belong to the Christian Education committee or Sunday School, we are asking that you please remove them by February 17. We are making plans to start Sunday school classes in the near future and will be doing a big clean up in these rooms. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Shirley King at shirleyking@rogers.com or 705-722-0150. Thank you! ~ Shirley King, Christian Ed Committee

If anyone knows of someone who is in need of a walker, please let Linda W. know at 705-431-7149.



In a season where grief comes more often, and the emotions stay with us longer in the isolation and gloominess of winter, here are some thoughts on helping your friends, neighbours, family (and even yourself) as they cope with grief.

Healing Is Hard. Here Are Four Ways to Come Alongside Hurting People.
by AUBREY SAMPSON & BRIAN FROM

Sometimes, it can feel like you can't win when it comes to helping a person in pain. It can feel like saying anything will just add more hurt.

It may feel as if the best course of action is just to avoid the person, but that will make an isolating situation feel even more so for them. Here are four life-giving ways to respond to someone in pain:

Offer the ministry of presence.

When we look at the story of Job and his friends and all they got wrong, there is a brief moment when they got it right. In the first week, they showed up, mourned beside him, cried with him. They knew there was nothing they could say or do to fix his pain so they simply showed up. Pastor Rick Warren says it this way, "The deeper the pain, the fewer words needed."

Offer the ministry of absence.

There is a time to be there and a time to step away, to release loved ones from the expectation of social events, meetings, small group gatherings, etc. Check in, but give permission to others to take all the time they need. This allows the Holy Spirit to move in the silence and space.

Keep showing up.

Grief and pain, no matter what kind it is, can impact everyone differently. Some need to be around others. Some self-isolate. Some want to talk. Some don't want to talk at all. Your efforts of texts, meals, or phone calls can be met with radio silence or little feedback and so often that can be taken as "they don't want my support." But grief moves like scribbles across a page and while one day a person may need to be alone in the safety of their own darkened room, another day they can need someone to reach out. So be consistent. Check in. Don't give up and don't take it personally if it feels as if your efforts are rebuffed. Let them know: I'm here, I'm waiting and I'm willing to walk beside you in your pain. It can be the very thing God uses to remind them of His presence in the dark.

Practice compassion and patience.

We all deal with our hurt and disappointments in unique ways. While you may not fully understand your grieving friend's pain or their emotional response to it, you can choose to use

it as an opportunity to practice compassion and patience. The word compassion means to, “suffer with” and like Jesus had compassion on the crowds of hurting people he encountered (Matthew 20:34; Matthew 14:14; Mark 8:2; Matthew 9:36), we too can enter into the pain of another, choose to feel what they feel, be patient with them in their healing and act like Christ in that moment.

And friend, if you are the one in grief, show yourself some compassion, patience, and kindness as well.

We live in a world full of all kinds of hurts and brokenness. We all know what it is like to have our pain worsened by the unhelpful, well-meaning words of another – which is why learning to enter the pain of others is such an important practice for us. Becoming beacons of hope and comfort in hurt is exactly what a broken-hearted world is looking for and may be the very thing that brings healing to the deepest of wounds. ♡

Reaching Out to The Wider Community...



In Support of My Sister's Place - A women's shelter in New Tecumseth



**Celebrate Valentine's Day
at**

“chez Valentine”

(a fine dining experience)

Midhurst United Church

Friday February 10 2023

~ Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM ~

(Donations will be discreetly welcomed following dinner)

RSVP: phone 705-722-6331 or e-mail office@midhurstunitedchurch.ca

Seating is limited; please book early to avoid disappointment!

Prayer Yoga

**Gentle Movement &
Guided Meditation *for All***



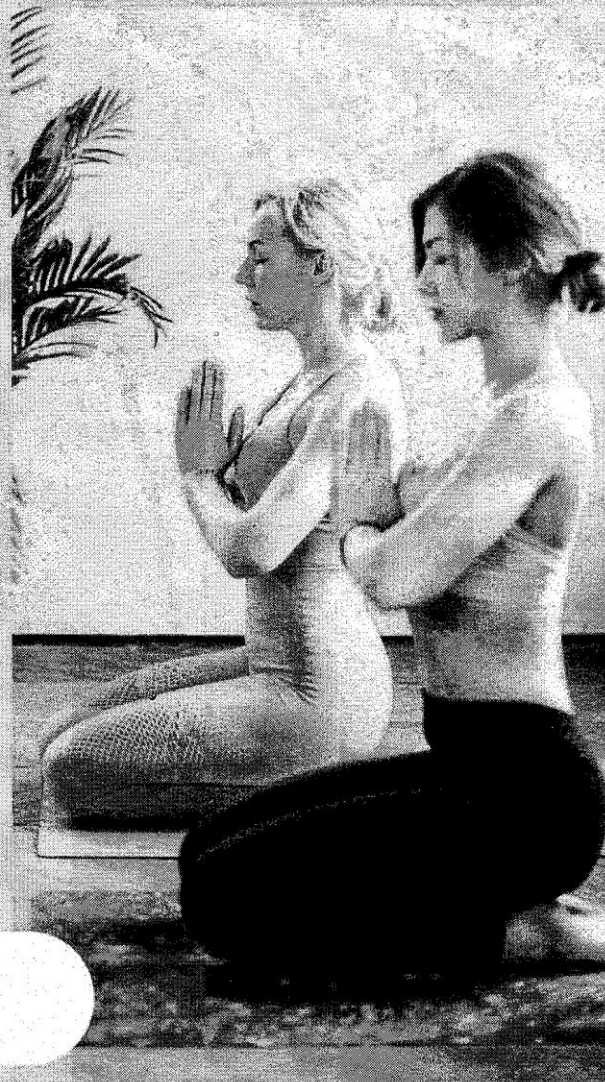
Join Krista

Registered Yoga Teacher,
Spiritual Director, and your
Minister! Appropriate for all levels.
Accessible from the Churchill
United main entrance, to the
fellowship hall. You can bring a
mat if you have one or you can
grab a chair! Wear comfortable
casual clothes. Donations are
welcome, but not mandatory, to
the Mission and Service fund.

Relax, Connect, and Move!

Starts Feb 1, 2023

Wednesdays 3:30



Churchill United Church | Main Entrance
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