



St. James United Church
Announcements
March 19, 2023

Upcoming Events:

- Sun. Mar. 19th - 9:15 to 9:45am (before church) – Lenten Wisdoms (Upper Room)
- Sun. Mar. 19th – 10am – 4th Sunday of Lent; *Mental Health Awareness Sunday - A Beginning*
- Tues. Mar. 21st – 9:30am – Board Meeting (upper room)
- Sun. Mar. 26th - 9:15 to 9:45am (before church) – Lenten Wisdoms (Upper Room)
- Sun. Mar. 26th – 10am – 5th Sunday of Lent; *Mental Health Awareness Sunday - The Journey Continues; Chili Lunch After Church*

Easter Services:

- ♦ Sun. Apr. 2nd – 10am - Palm Sunday Communion
 - ♦ 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 (keep your eyes on the news for the time of sunrise!) - Easter Sunrise Service - Innispirit
 - ♦ Sun. Apr. 9th – 10am - Halleluiah! Easter Sunday Service at SJUC
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Thank you to this Sunday's volunteers who make our time of gathering meaningful and fun.

Greeters: Roy & Shirley King

Lay Reader(s): Hilary Mallett

Refreshments: Shirley Parker

THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP... from Pastor Patricia

On this fourth Sunday of Lent, we recognize that the light is getting darker as we extinguish our Lenten candles. We continue to manifest our contemplations and meditations of the Easter season through our prayers and our songs.



March 22nd is World Water Day. Through the resources of Canada Food Grains, we will be reflecting on the spiritual as well as the physical need

for water throughout God's Creation. It will be a familiar scripture reading we will use to ponder the many gifts of water: John 4:5-30 *the woman at the well*

Meanwhile, check out the ideas below... are you a household hero?

See you on Sunday,
Pastor Patricia



THINGS YOU CAN DO FROM HOME

- 💧 Take five-minute showers. With 44% of household wastewater not being safely treated, taking shorter showers is a great way to save this precious resource.
- 💧 Flush safe. Fix leaking water and waste pipes, empty full septic tanks and report dumping of sludge.
- 💧 Stop polluting. Don't put food waste, oils, medicines and chemicals down my toilet or drains.
- 💧 Don't throw away edible food. An estimated 1/3 of all food produced globally is lost or goes to waste. Reducing your food wastage reduces demand on agriculture, which is one of the biggest water consumers. So, reduce food waste and save water.

Membership Sunday Celebration

Here they are... those who have heard God call them beloved, and who feel beloved by this congregation!

As they seek to deepen their relationship and commitment to St. James United Church's community of faith, we welcomed them with open arms. Each were presented with a beautiful gerbera daisy.



From left to right...

Darlene Perkins; Erika Huber; Ceu (Sue) Melo; Lorraine Stapleton; Mary McGrath; Thelma and Boyd Allen.

Welcome to the family!



2023 World Day of Prayer

International Service

~ Written by the

World Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. This year's theme was...

I Have Heard About Your Faith

Based on Ephesians 1:15-19

St. James United Church was host to this year's World Day of Prayer. Twenty women joined together to listen to the Word of God and to the voices of women around the world who shared their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs.



- excerpt from World Day of Prayer website:

“The worship service shared letters of encouragement sent to women who faced suffering and injustice. Their stories of faith contemplate issues that are shared by women and girls around the world and that continue to challenge us to prayerful action.

The women of Taiwan remind us of the urgency to protect the environment and have a nuclear-free homeland; to be aware of the gender stereotypes women face when defying the traditional role in the workplace or in the family, and to care for the healing of the victims of verbal and sexual abuses. It also brings to light the hidden struggle of the essential workers during the pandemic who had to balance between work and family in a vulnerable economic situation. The sisters thank God for the natural resources of the island and pray for wisdom in face of the political isolation of Taiwan in the international community. They ask for our prayers.

May God give us the wisdom and courage to tell the stories of faith that transform lives.”

It was a heartwarming and encouraging worship service
that touched every person who was there.
Thank you to the UCW for hosting the gathering this year.



From last week's Lenten Wisdoms on Sunday before church...

~ Based on the book: good courage-daily reflections on hope, edited by Alydia Smith

Here Comes the Sun

*I lift up my eyes to the hills _
From where will my help comes
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.*

~ Psalm 121: 1-2

I knew I had truly become a “Saskatchewanian” when I grumbled at the grey sky this morning. When I moved out West, I learned that Saskatchewan folk can handle -45 weather for weeks on end, a wind that can knock you right off your feet, even a pandemic that alters the way we live. But if that sun goes away for a couple of days? We get grouchy!

I sit here grumbling, feeling an odd sense of belonging as I long for the sun to break through that layer of clouds, and it dawns on me how powerful the sun really is. Beyond keeping our planet rooted in space, the sun also boosts our spirits, warms our hearts and clears our minds. It paints the sky with amazing colours, distracting us from the cold, the wind, maybe even the pandemic fallout. – for a few minutes. It makes sense then how we tend to stumble when it disappears and how we rejoice when it returns.

I suppose faith is like that, too. Sometimes strong and clear filling our days with warmth and encouragement. At other times hard to find. Hidden behind clouds of uncertainty we stumble and lose heart. It happens to all of us. I sure wish we wouldn't judge ourselves so harshly when it does.

The thing is, we don't seem to judge ourselves when we get grouchy after a few grey days. In fact, after winter has set in, we seem to *accept* that it's a hard time *as we do what we can* to endure it.

I wonder how it would feel if we allowed the same assurance and kindness to move in the twists and turns of our faith journey? What if when our faith wavers, when our doubts gather, and it becomes hard to believe that God is really moving the world, we let go of the judgement and just give space to what we were feeling? What if we allowed ourselves to hold onto the hope that our faith grows the most when we give room to our doubts?

PONDER

- . What are the things that feed your faith?
- . When have you found your faith hard to find?
- . How does the world around you help reconnect with God?
- . Have you ever had a moment of new faith growing out of deep doubt?

PRACTICE

Doubt is a part of faith; it helps us dig deeper into what we believe. Draw a line down the middle of a piece of paper. On 1 side write 3 things you doubt. Spend some time with these doubts. How do they make you feel?

On the other side of the line, write 3 things you have faith in. How do they speak to your doubts?

When you are ready, thank God for both sides of the line as you pause in a moment of prayer and gratitude.

Join us this week at 9:15 Sunday morning in Noah's Ark Sunday School Room for our next *Lenten Wisdoms*.



Holy Humour



A man suffered a serious heart attack while shopping in a store. The store clerks called 911 when they saw him collapse to the floor. The paramedics rushed the man to the nearest hospital where he had emergency open heart bypass surgery.

He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at the Catholic Hospital. A nun was seated next to his bed holding a clipboard loaded with several forms, and a pen. She asked him how he was going to pay for his treatment. (Must be a hospital in the U.S.)

"Do you have health insurance?" she asked. He replied in a raspy voice, "No health insurance."

The nun asked, "Do you have money in the bank?" He replied, "No money in the bank."

"Do you have a relative who could help you with the payments?" asked the irritated nun. He said, "I only have a spinster sister, and she is a nun."

The nun became agitated and announced loudly, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God."

The patient replied, "Perfect. Send the bill to my brother-in-law."

Time change. I
had to go around and
fix all my clocks.





Join us downstairs for our Fellowship Lunch
on March 26th.
It will be a warm Chili lunch!
Freewill donations appreciated. All are welcome.

Keeping in Touch

Jane Sullivan lives in Victoria Harbour and serves 3/4 time with Creemore New Lowell Pastoral Charge. Sarah Jane now lives with her, on hiatus from university. SJ works full time at the Midland Staples store.

Gerald is a very successful chef, currently sharing his gifts with Mill Street Pub in Ottawa. He is engaged but no date has been set.

Her third child is Phoenix (they, them) who lives in Orillia and works at an adult store there. However, they have become very engaged in drag, and in Jane's words, "I must say, they are one of the best I've seen!!! "They had Biscuit the dog and Magic the cat when they were at Stroud. Magic, sadly, died of feline diabetes. Biscuit is still going at 13 years old, and now shares the family's love with Scath, an 11-month-old Labrador, and Lilli and Luci, two precious feline people.

Jane is in a committed relationship with Don Monteith, and they love to spend time at Don's trailer near Lions Head, where Jane can easily hike on the Bruce Trail!

~ Author: Linda Winson

Prayer Request... The South Simcoe United Churches Cluster meets this Wednesday, March 15th. Please hold all our churches in prayer as we gather to support each other and discern God's call to our communities of faith.

Mission and Outreach

The Innisfil Food Bank is grateful to St. James for a monetary donation of \$580 in January 2023 and for a whopping 120 pounds of food donated in February 2023! Thank you for your continued support of this much needed program in our community.



Things that can be put to good use...

Trinity United in Beeton collects stuff!

Here is a list of items you might have at home that could be put to good use:

forward them to Patricia for delivery to Trinity United Church in Beeton.

- used eye glasses for refurbishing
- used stamps
- pop can tabs



what is happening at Bond Head United Church...

Be a part of their Faith Discussion Group...
They meet weekly on Tuesday morning at 10:00 am.
Come join them for interesting conversations, coffee and lots
of laughter!!

CAFÉ CONVO with Victoria Fisher, MSW

The community is invited to join the conversation
March 24th at 7:00-9:00 pm at Midhurst United Church

Victoria Fisher is Anishinaabeke from Ebb and Flow First Nation with a Master of Social Work – Indigenous Specialization.

She is the Executive Director of a non-profit service organization, contributes to Indigenous-led resource development and works to shine light on community capacity.

Victoria will talk with us about the service/relationship experiences that guide her work. She will facilitate opportunity for shared reflection and connection.

Café Convo is a safe space to listen, ask questions and join the conversation on a variety of topics. All are invited.



Here is an opportunity for you to take a peek at some of the webinars that have been offered through United in Learning.

Some past ones include:

- Indigenous Children Then, Now and Tomorrow - A Panel Discussion for Orange Shirt Day
- Daring to Share What Do You Need to Know about Anglican-United Church Shared Ministry?
 - Creating Space for Mental Health and Well Being
- Mental Health WISE Church: Communities of Faith as Places of Welcome, Inclusion, and Support
 - Lesser Evils - A 2022 online journey through Lent

In Case You Missed It...

If you want to see any of these or other webinars, you can find all the recordings on [United-In-Learning.com](https://www.united-in-learning.com).