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**November**  
**2018**

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## Upcoming Services and Events:

- Sunday Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Tree of Remembrance  
Adopt a Family Tree  
Innispirt Christmas Concert at SJUC 2pm
- Thursday Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> - Blue Christmas Service at SJUC 7pm
- Sunday Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
White Gift Sunday
- Monday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> - UCW Christmas Potluck Lunch 12:30pm
- Sunday Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Sunday School Pageant
- Sunday Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
- Monday Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service 7pm  
All ages welcome to this traditional night of worship.
- Tuesday Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Blessings to all!  
No Service at St. James.
- Sunday Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> - First Sunday after Christmas
- Thursday Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> - Next Board Meeting
- Sunday Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> - Annual Congregational Meeting



## ***What is Our Tree of Remembrance?***

St. James Family Tree of Remembrance is from December 2<sup>nd</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup>. As a church family, we can support each other throughout the holiday season when, together, we remember our loved ones whom we have lost. You are invited to bring in a decoration in memory of someone special to place on our Tree of Remembrance in the sanctuary. Each week, the names of those we are remembering will be added to our Tree of Remembrance list in the weekly bulletin. Your decoration can be homemade, store bought, or anything that makes you remember that person(s) with tenderness and love. It will be a beautiful tree!

Let's keep these loved ones and families in our prayers, along with those who are in the silence of our hearts throughout the Christmas season.

## ***7<sup>th</sup> Annual Innispirit Christmas Concert – December 2<sup>nd</sup>***

What a joy it is to be singing together in a large choir with members from Churchill, Gilford, Lefroy, and St. James Stroud. The Innispirit Choir has been practicing together at St. James since September to be able to perform The Wondrous Story. It is the Christmas story in song written by Nancy Price and Don Besig. (The composers of Go Now in Peace.) Prepare to be delighted with this wonderful performance.

Donations to the Innisfil Food Bank or Innisfil Christmas for Kids will guarantee your entry. Refreshments will be generously supplied by Barrierview Retirement Community, opening in 2019 at 3 Concert Way.

## ***White Gift Sunday at St. James – December 9<sup>th</sup>***

The tradition of White Gift Sunday has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904. What began as a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift has grown into today's white gift services in many churches across several denominations. The story is told that a minister's wife initiated the idea to solve the problem of inequity of gifts given at the Sunday school Christmas party. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, the focus shifted to bringing gifts to Jesus that could in turn be shared with people around the world who did not have much. All the gifts would come wrapped in plain white paper, so that no one would know which was an expensive gift and which was a more modest one. No one would feel ashamed of their gift and everyone would share in the joy of giving to others. St. James observes White Gift Sunday with a donation to the food bank placed in a white bag. These bags of food are collected by the children, and are placed under the tree for a White Gift Blessing.



## **The Pastor's Corner**

*Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter! There is so much that could be written about this sacred time of year. It is a time when we look for the goodness in everyone we meet, and send up extra prayers for peace on earth. If only we celebrated Jesus' birth 365 days of the year!*



*I'd like to share this poem sent to Dear Abby from a couple who have too much stuff. Sound familiar?*

### **What do You Want for Christmas?**

So many of you asked us (since Yuletide's drawing near)  
"What do you want for Christmas? What can we give you this year?  
If we say, "We want nothing!" you buy something anyway.  
So, here's a list of what we'd like; believe now what we say:

Pajamas for a little child, food to feed the poor.  
Blankets for a shelter, and we ask a little bit more--

Perform good deeds and let us know, or volunteer your time.  
These last are worth a fortune, and they needn't cost a dime.

We have too many things now, vases, candles, tapes and clocks.  
We have our fill of garments, ties, underwear and socks.

Candy is too fattening, crossword books we've more than 20.  
We don't need trays or plates or cups, and knickknacks we have plenty.

We've no walls to hang more pictures; we have books we've not yet read;  
So please take what you'd spend on us and help the poor instead!

Just send a Christmas card to us and tell us what you've done;  
We'll open them on Christmas Eve, and read them one by one.

It won't cost as much for postage as a package sent would do,  
You'll need no wrapping paper, ribbons, ink or glue.

And we'll thank God you listened to what we had to say,  
So we could be the instruments to help someone this way.

-- Author Unknown

*May this Christmas find you surrounded by all that is holy, and a warmth in your heart that extends throughout 2019.*

*Blessings to all!*

*Pastor Patricia*

## GRIEF & THE HOLIDAYS

“Holidays are time spent with loved ones” was imprinted on our psyche from a young age. Holidays mark the passage of time in our lives. They are part of the milestones we share with each other and they generally represent time spent with family. They bring meaning to certain days and we bring much meaning back to them. But since holidays are for being with those we love the most, how on earth can anyone be expected to cope with them when a loved one has died?

For many people, this is the hardest part of grieving, when we miss our loved ones even more than usual. How can you celebrate togetherness when there is none? When you have lost someone special, your world loses its celebratory qualities. Holidays only magnify the loss. The sadness feels sadder and the loneliness goes deeper. The need for support may be the greatest during the holidays. Pretending you don't hurt and or it is not a harder time of the year is just not the truth for you. If it wasn't harder you probably wouldn't be here. You can and will get through the holidays. Rather than avoiding the feelings of grief, lean into them. It is not the grief you want to avoid, it is the pain. Grief is the way out of the pain. There are a number of ways to incorporate your loved one and your loss into the holidays.

**Christmas, and New Year** - These can be the biggest & often most challenging of all. You can and will get through the holidays.

### Ways to externalize the loss – give it a time and a place

- A prayer before the Holiday dinner, about your loved one.
- Light a candle for your loved one.
- Create an online tribute for them. Buy a star for them- <https://www.starregistry.ca/>
- Share a favorite story about your loved one.
- Have everyone tell a funny story about your loved one.
- At your place of worship remember them in a prayer or on the Tree of Remembrance.
- Chat online about them.

### Ways to Cope

*Have a Plan A/Plan B* – Plan A is you go to the Thanksgiving, Christmas Day or Christmas Eve dinner with family and friends. If it doesn't feel right, have your plan B ready. Plan B may be a movie you both liked or a photo album to look through or a special place you went to together. Many people find that when they have Plan B in place, just knowing it is there is enough.

*Cancel the Holiday all together.* Yes, you can cancel the Holiday. If you are going through the motions and feeling nothing, cancel them. Take a year off. They will come around again. For others, staying involved with the Holidays is a symbol of life continuing. Let the Holiday routine give you a framework during these tough times.

*Try the Holidays in a new way.* Grief has a unique way of giving us the permission to really evaluate what parts of the Holidays you enjoy and what parts you don't. Remember, there is no right or wrong way to handle the Holidays in grief. You have to decide what is right for you and do it.

You have every right to change your mind, even a few times. Friends and family members may not have a clue how to help you through the Holidays and you may not either.

It is very natural to feel you may never enjoy the Holidays again. They will certainly never be the same as they were. However, in time, most people are able to find meaning again in the traditions as a new form of the Holiday Spirit grows inside of them. Even without grief, our friends and relatives often think they know how our Holidays should look, what “the family” should and shouldn’t do.

### **Do’s and Don’ts:**

- Do be gentle with yourself and protect yourself.
- Don’t do more than you want, and don’t do anything that does not serve your soul and your loss.
- Do allow time for the feelings.
- Don’t keep feelings bottled up. If you have 500 tears to cry don’t stop at 250.
- Do allow others to help. We all need help at certain times in our lives.
- Don’t ask if you can help or should help a friend in grief. Just help. Find ways; invite them to group events or just out for coffee.
- Do, in grief, pay extra attention to the children. Children are too often the forgotten grievers.

### **Just Remember**

Holidays are clearly some of the roughest terrain we navigate after a loss. The ways we handle them are as individual as we are. What is vitally important is that we be present for the loss in whatever form the holidays do or don’t take. These holidays are part of the journey to be felt fully. They are usually very sad, but sometimes we may catch ourselves doing okay, and we may even have a brief moment of laughter.

You don’t have to be a victim of the pain or the past. When the past calls, let it go to voice mail...it has nothing to say. You don’t have to be haunted by the pain or the past. You can remember and honor the love. Whatever you experience, just remember that sadness is allowed because death, as they say, doesn’t take a holiday.

Even without grief, our friends and relatives often think they know how our holidays should look, what the family should and shouldn’t do. Now more than ever, be gentle with yourself. Don’t do more than you want, and don’t do anything that does not serve your soul and your loss.

*Find more at: <https://grief.com/grief-the-holidays>*





*A Blue Christmas Service*  
*“Hope for the Holidays”*

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first or perhaps the tenth Christmas without a loved friend or family member who has died; it may be a time that has always been difficult.

The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and in churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost. The anguish of lost relationships, the weariness of ill health, the feelings of isolation - all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of celebrating the Season. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness; We need to know that we are not alone.

We look for encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

For these reasons, *St. James United Church* in conjunction with *Innisfil Funeral Home*, is hosting a *special service*:

*“Hope for the Holidays”*

on

*Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m.*

at

**St. James United Church**  
**(2230 Victoria St. W., Stroud).**

**Come to this special service and be with others who understand.**

Register by calling 705-436-5225 or email [stjamesunited@rogers.com](mailto:stjamesunited@rogers.com) by Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> so we can plan for light refreshments.

If you would like your loved one's name to be on the *Memory Roll Call* during the service, be sure to give us their name with the correct spelling when you register.

***I think this is a poem that should be read to every child. Pastor P.***

***Santa's Prayer on Christmas Eve***

Written by Warren D. Jennings

The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer were fed,  
But Santa still knelt by the side of the bed.

"Dear Father," he prayed "Be with me tonight.  
There's much work to do and my schedule is tight.

I must jump in my sleigh and streak through the sky,  
Knowing full well that a reindeer can't fly.

I will visit each household before the first light,  
I'll cover the world and all in one night.

With sleigh bells a-ringing, I'll land on each roof,  
Amid the soft clatter of each little hoof.

To get in the house is the difficult part,  
So I'll slide down the chimney of each child's heart.

My sack will hold toys to grant all their wishes.  
The supply will be endless like the loaves and the fishes.

I will fill all the stockings and not leave a track.  
I'll eat every cookie that is left for my snack.

I can do all these things Lord, only through You,  
I just need your blessing, then it's easy to do.

All this is to honor the birth of the One,  
That was sent to redeem us, Your most Holy Son.

So, to all of my friends, least Your glory I rob,  
Please Lord, remind them who gave me this job."

†††

Q. What do Santa's elves learn in school?

A. The Elfabet.

Q. What does Santa like to do in the garden?

A. Hoe, hoe, hoe!

Q: What kind of motorcycle does Santa ride?

A: Holly Davidson.



What song do you sing at a snowman's birthday party? Freeze a jolly good fellow!

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas? One that's deep pan, crisp and even!

# Congregational Life

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## Christian Development Committee

We started the Sunday school year off on September 16 with "Bless the Backpacks" and our first day of classes. We will continue to offer two classes, a junior class ages 3-6 and a senior class of 7 and older if we have enough children attending.

Thank you to everyone who was able to stay and support our Super Soupy lunch fundraiser on October 14<sup>th</sup>! Your support made our work and efforts worthwhile, and enabled us to do our own little part in making "The Health Hub" a reality. A cheque in the amount of \$402.00 was presented to the "Innisfil Health Hub" on October 21.

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday school children had a visit from Darlene Perkins and her furry and feathered friends. Darlene started attending St. James recently and has been a veterinary technician at Ferris Lane Hospital since 1990. She is an active member of Therapy Dogs Inc. and has been doing Therapy Dog work since 1993. Darlene loves sharing her critters and the children had a great time with Minnie Mouse the Pomeranian, Mateo the Sun Conure parrot, a baby Quaker parrot, a baby Sun Conure parrot, a mother and her baby Dwarf Campbell's hamsters, Munchie the Japanese Harlequin Holland Lop rabbit, Mochi the chinchilla and Phyllis Quiller an African Pygmy hedgehog. We are very happy that Darlene has found a new church family at St. James!

Plans are now underway for our Sunday school Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> during the service at 10:00 a.m. Please come out and support our children as we present "Do You See What We See?"

We are always looking for Sunday school teachers/helpers. If this is something you might be interested in, please speak to Clasina Brands, Pat Dryden, Shirley King, Roberta Noble or Linda Winson.

~The Christian Development Committee



## **Mission and Outreach Committee**

Once again, our **Food Bank donations** have been graciously given and gratefully received at the *Innisfil Food Bank*.

January and February donations filled two shopping carts to the brim. These were collected and given to the *Barrie Native Friendship Centre*. Unfortunately, no weights were obtained.

To date, there have been 7 deliveries, totaling 1,199 lbs., and we still have time before year's end!!

### **2018 Food Bank Donations:**

January/February – Barrie Native Friendship Centre – no weight obtained

March – 198.6 lbs.

April – 238 lbs.

May – 155 lbs.

July – 139.6 lbs.

August – 235 lbs.

September – 233 lbs., \$200 donation to purchase food and cash donation of \$26.40

October – 237 lbs.

**A total of 1,435 lbs. YEAR TO DATE!** Thank you to all who make this such a successful contribution for our Community Outreach Program.

~ Hilary Mallett



### **Canadian Foodgrains (CFGB) and Loaves & Fishes South Simcoe Update**

***Thank you to Kevin Eisses, chairperson for the Loaves and Fishes growing project in South Simcoe. Kevin provided the following update in the middle of a very busy harvest time.***

For 35 years, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), a registered charity, has been working in partnership with 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies to end global hunger by:

- Supporting international programs to meet immediate food needs, reduce malnutrition and achieve sustainable food security
- Influencing improvements in national and international policies that contribute to ending global hunger; and
- Increasing and deepening the engagement of Canadians in efforts to end global hunger

The United Church of Canada is one of the CFGB member churches and for the past 21 years, our church has provided support through our association with a growing project in my area called the "Loaves and Fishes Growing Project". This Project was started by a group of South Simcoe farmers and individuals, to provide a "Christian Response to Hunger", of which I was a founding member.

What does Loaves and Fishes do?

- Farmland is rented or donated for the Growing Project
- Farmers donate their labour and machinery to work the land, plant and harvest the crop
- Agribusinesses and individuals donate some of the crop inputs – seeds, sprays and fertilizer, with the rest being purchased
- Cash donations received from individuals and churches are used to cover the land rental and input costs
- After the harvest, the Growing Project sells the crops and forwards the proceeds to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

This year, the Growing Project is harvesting 192 acres of grains – winter wheat, soybeans and corn. The wheat was harvested in the summer, the soybeans are being harvested now and the corn harvest will be starting shortly.

At the end of the harvest, net proceeds will be sent to the CFGB and divided among the member agencies that were represented by the individuals, churches and farmers, who supported Loaves and Fishes.

For the past 2 years, Loaves and Fishes has partnered with the Barrie Fair, growing corn and soybeans and having a corn maze for fairgoers. This partnership provided an opportunity for us to educate people in the community, as to how we help those globally.

Over the years of Loaves and Fishes, we have raised over \$2.5 million. When this money is used for CFGB projects, it is usually matched 4:1 by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), hence our project has had the potential to provide \$12.5 million for food relief.

In 2017-2018, the CFGB spent \$37.6 million on international programs for:

- Food assistance – to provide food for people who are hungry because of emergency crisis situations like war, drought or floods
- Agricultural and Livelihood – providing seeds and tools, teaching new ways to farm
- Nutrition - to reduce malnutrition in families through nutrition education, provision of clean water and special feeding programs
- There were 117 projects in 34 countries, benefitting over 800,000 people.

It is the generosity of many volunteers, churches, community organizations and agricultural businesses, that have contributed to the success of the Loaves and Fishes Growing Project, in support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

**To make a donation to Loaves and Fishes, please make cheques payable to St. James United Church and place on the offering plate. Tax receipts will be issued upon request. Please provide your name and address with your donation.**

**For more information on the Canadian Foodgrains Bank - <http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca>**

## **Pastoral Care Committee**

### **Lay Visitation/Phoning**

If you know of someone who needs to be put on our visitation list, please let Pastor Patricia know.

### **Friendship Letters/Birthday Cakes/Baptism follow ups/Newsletter**

Thank you to all who volunteer and share in this wonderful work.

### **Ushering & Greeting**

Thank you to everyone who has offered their time for this very important job! You are the first people that a congregational member or a newcomer to St. James will meet, and your welcome is joyfully given AND received! A love of talking to people and a welcoming smile are all that are needed.

If you or your whole family would care to do this important job on a Sunday morning please let Penny Bell know or simply sign up on the list on the bulletin board in the narthex. (There is a *full description of the job and the things you do*, posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.)

### **Fellowship (Coffee time)**

There is a sign-up sheet found on the cupboard door near the entry to the kitchen. It would be wonderful if each time a new one is posted it is filled immediately. We all seem to enjoy partaking of this time of fellowship but it does take people to make and serve it. If you would like to take part but have never done it before, please see Penny Bell and she will try and put you together with an experienced person for that first time or two of doing the job.

## **Worship Arts Committee and Choir**

Thank you to those who volunteer their time with this important work.

All services have been planned to the end of the year. Please refer to front page.

Love to sing? Please think about joining our choir. Talk to Karen Kelly about what it involves.



## **United Church Women (UCW)**

### **UCW – Looking to the Future**



With the reorganization of the United Church of Canada into regions, rather than conferences and presbyteries, the women's groups, including UCW, also need to reorganize to match the regional boundaries. The first organizational meeting of UCW took place on Thursday, October 18th at York Pines United Church. The invitation was sent to all 177 churches in Region 10 which stretches from Lake Ontario in the south to north of Huntsville. Those present were asked to indicate what current projects, events and activities they felt strongly should be continued. Then there was much discussion about four different plans of organization that might enable us to continue with our important work. Pros and cons for each plan were forthcoming but no clear decision was reached. A letter was drafted requesting that UCW be represented on the Region 10 governing body when it is established. It will be sent to the co-chairs of the regional transition team and the Executive Minister for Region 10. The next organizational meeting has been tentatively set for January 24th at York Pines with a snow date of January 31<sup>st</sup>. Again, the women in all 177 churches will receive an invitation. It is vital that UCW remain a strong organization in these challenging, changing times. We look forward with hope towards the future. UCW has weathered many changes since its inception in 1962 and with God's guidance will continue to serve our local churches and the world.

~ Submitted by Pat Edmonds, recording secretary of Toronto Conference UCW Executive

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## **Getting to Know Our Church Family**

### **A Volunteer for Matthews House Hospice: Wayne Murray**

"In 2008, in our darkest hour, an angel arrived to help and support both Mum and me – Sally Taylor (Creator of Matthews house Hospice.) She came to our home and set up support services. A volunteer came weekly (Christine) to see Mum, allowing me to go shopping. I also attended the Care Givers Group.

After Mum died and I felt better, I became a volunteer. Since 2010 I have helped with the Men's Group. Now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year, we have more participants and have enjoyed so many wonderful outings. Last week, we participated in a drum circle. I better understand where Matthews House fits into my life from a recent sermon by my pastor, Patricia James.

She talked about community. Our family community, our church community and our community in the world. Pastor Patricia helped me see my life in a series of communities.

I have 4 loving interacting communities:

1. The caring, loving people who reach out to me at St. James United Church in Stroud
2. My neighbours and friends in Hockley where I used to live; we have remained close and loving
3. My many new friends at Sandycove Acres – caring and kind
4. The folks at Matthews House Hospice, like staff, clients and other volunteers. Thank you for putting love and kindness into my life."

# Resource Team

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## Finance / Treasurer

**As of September 30, 2018:** We have 28 on PAR and 44 Envelopes.

Mission & Service: 2017	\$11,490	Revenue (Sept.)	\$11,248
2018	\$11,200	Expenses (Sept.)	<u>\$8,981</u>
		<b>Overdrawn</b>	<b>- \$4,725</b>

We seem to be on track for the budgeted \$10,000 deficit for year 2018.

~ Silvia Leibundgut

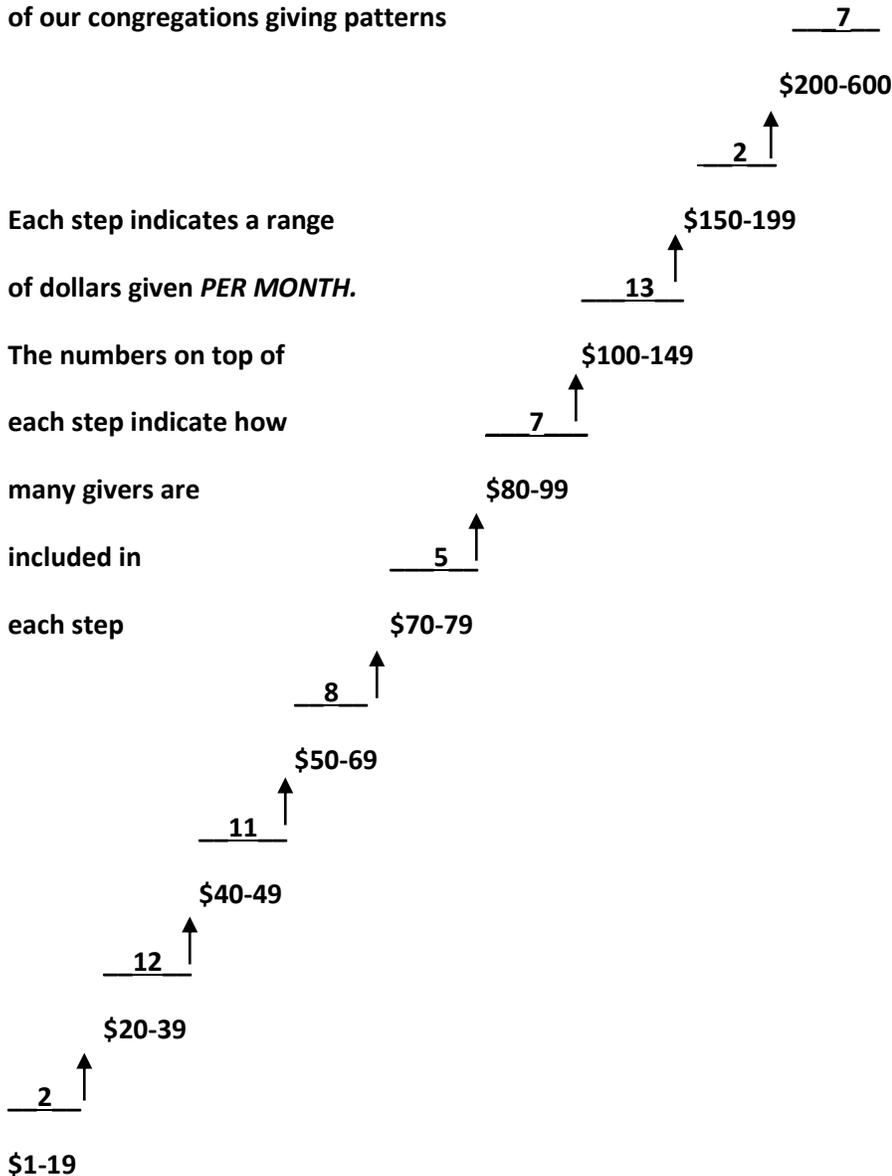
## Monthly Givings Per Household

### STEPS IN THE 2018 ST. JAMES JOURNEY

These steps provide a snapshot of our congregations giving patterns

Each step indicates a range of dollars given *PER MONTH*.

The numbers on top of each step indicate how many givers are included in each step



*St. James is in debt to the Credit Union for approximately \$6,000.00.*

*We have our most expensive time of year coming up. Our snow plowing contract, as well as our heat and hydro will have sizable increases from past years. This will add to the impact of our overdraft.*

*We invite you to take a moment to reflect on this financial report and consider increasing your financial contribution, so our deficit can be eliminated by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 2018.*

***I find this creative Christmas Letter from Jesus interesting in a time when we, as Christians, try to accept the changing attitude in society regarding political correctness. Pastor P.***

## ***Christmas Letter from Jesus***

Dear Children,

It has come to my attention that many you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season. Maybe you've forgotten that I wasn't actually born during this time of the year and that it was some of your predecessors who decided to celebrate My birthday on what was actually a time of pagan festival. Although I do appreciate being remembered anytime.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own.

I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth, just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Now, having said that let Me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santa's and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching, explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks were.

If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15: 1 - 8.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.
2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.
3. Instead of writing George complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.
4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.
5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.
6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference.

7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.

8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary - especially one who takes My love and Good News to those who have never heard My name.

9. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.

10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Don't forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember: I LOVE YOU, JESUS

~ Earthly Author Unknown ~ found on: <http://www.bluidkiti.com>

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## Ever Heard of Luscious Slush Punch?

This is without a doubt the best punch you will ever taste! It makes enough for 2 punch bowls, and could easily become your Christmas Eve punch tradition. There won't be a drop left. ☺

Ingredients:

- 1 to 1 ½ cups white sugar
- 6 cups water
- 2 (3 ounce) packages strawberry flavored Jell-O mix (or 1 strawberry & one cherry)
- 1 (46 fluid ounce) can pineapple juice
- 2/3 cup lemon juice
- 1 quart orange juice
- 2 (2 litre) bottles lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage (or 1 lemon lime & one ginger ale)
- OPTIONAL: Mango flavoured rum or your favorite liquor poured directly in or served on the side

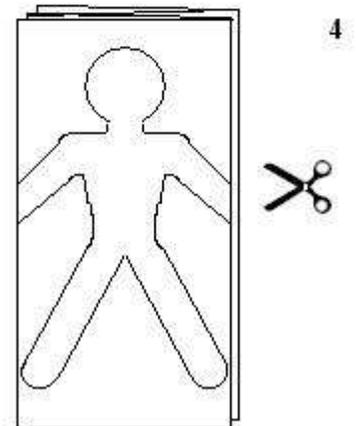
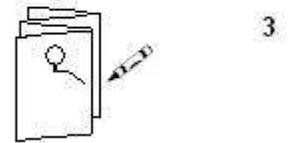
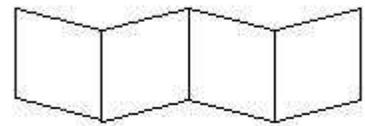
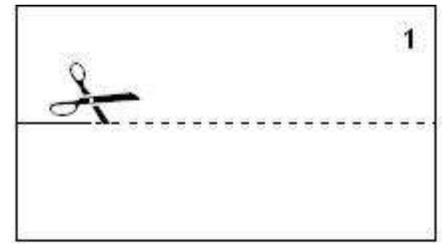
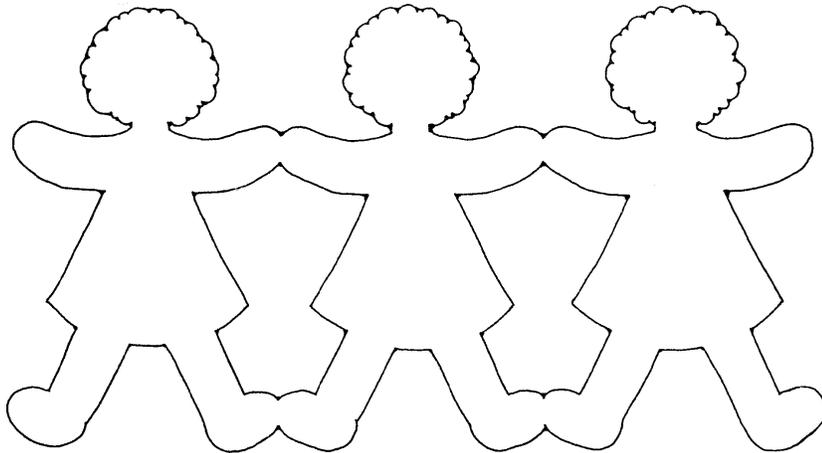
Directions:

1. Bring the sugar, water, and strawberry flavored gelatin to a boil in a large saucepan; boil for 3 minutes. Stir in the pineapple juice, lemon juice, and orange juice. If using liquor in your punch, you can add it now - It helps keep the punch slushy. Divide mixture into 2 separate containers and freeze.
2. Combine the contents of 1 container with 1 bottle of the lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage in a punch bowl; stir until slushy. Repeat with remaining portions as needed.

## A Fun Family Craft... Create a Garland of Family Paper Dolls

Making a chain of paper dolls is fun, easy, and may become a tradition in your family, especially if you make them a family!

Fold your paper for the number of family members and cut out a doll chain. Have each person colour in the one they represent, freckles and all! If cutting out too many people causes the paper to get too thick to cut, just do 4 at a time and tape the chain together.



### Paper Dolls Instructions

1. Take a piece of paper (8.5" x 11") and cut it lengthwise.
2. Fold it into quarters accordion (pleated) style.
3. Draw a figure of a person on the top layer. Be sure that the arms extend beyond the edge of the folded sheet. You can draw your own figure or use the templates below.
4. Cut the figure out and unfold. You will get a chain of dolls holding hands.

To have more dolls in your chain, use a larger sheet of paper and fold more pleats before cutting. You can decorate the figures with eyes, nose, mouth, hair, and clothes and any silly thing you want!