



# St. James Visitor

Hope Peace Joy Love

Christmas 2019

## GREETINGS FROM REV. BRIAN COLBOURNE

Luke 2:10 states, *"I bring good tidings of great joy for all people."* Oh how the world needs a little good news! It seems as if people are becoming immune to the "bad news" we are hearing from around the world, and even here at home. Do the words of the angel as found in Luke 2:10 have any effect on the people of today?

Christmas is a time when people are given a glimpse into God's plan for the world. It is a special time in the year when people are called away from fears and doubts and drawn near, if not into, a deeper sense of the miracle of God's presence. If we listen to the Good News surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ and believe in the promise of His return, we just may experience a good change in our lives...but we must be willing to let our lives be touched by the presence of God.

In Luke 2:12 we read, *"This will be a sign to you: you will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."* Signs are important to us, no matter what form they may take. They serve to "direct us in the right way," "warn us of certain dangers," and even "give us hope that something good is going to happen." We would be wise to look for the signs and listen to their messages.

Many signs were given in the Old Testament directing people to the coming of the Messiah. Few people paid attention, although the signs were clear. In the New Testament the prophecies were fulfilled with the coming of Jesus Christ. How exciting it must have been for the shepherds to receive the message from the angels, as we read in Luke 2.

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus. In our Advent celebrations we prepare and wait. As we wait, we examine our relationship with God and our relationship with the world through Jesus Christ. Christmas has always been a time for bringing people together. It is also a good time for us to bring healing to any broken relationships we may have. This is just a part of the miracles available through Christ. It can have a transforming effect on our lives, our church and the world.

2019 has been another busy year for St. James United Church. The various groups and committees, as well as many other individuals, have continued doing great work. They are such an important part of our Church Ministry, and we are grateful for those who offer themselves to serve.

St. James United Church and the other community churches bring the Good News to the people. We want you to experience the Spirit of God as God guides us into the future. Join us, as together with the angels we *"Bring good tidings of great joy for all people."*

Merry Christmas from our family to your family!  
Rev. Brian



**OUR CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE TIME WILL CHANGE IN JANUARY.  
INSTEAD OF SUNDAY MORNING, PLEASE JOIN US ON SATURDAY AT 4:30 PM.**



## UCW

### CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS by Vera Marshall



Yesterday, I was asked, “Honey, could you write an item for the Christmas Visitor?” When I agreed, she added, “the deadline for submission is Monday.” Today I had my pen and paper ready to write, but before starting I tuned in to VOWR. The Fortunes were singing “Here comes that rainy day feeling again.” Just my sentiments, too! It’s been raining for days. “Forget that,” I said to myself, “you’ve got a deadline to meet.” However, in all likelihood there will be some snow before the Christmas Visitor is delivered.

I have a tote bag filled with UCW material, things that I and others have written, as well as several St. James Visitors dating back to 1981. This afternoon I have spent time re-reading several Christmas Visitors. They are so interesting! I’d like to share excerpts from some of them.

December 1981, Rev. Ray Tucker: “The Spirit of Christmas breaks down barriers, it heals wounds, it creates friendships, it brings people together and it restores families. There is that mystical magic about Christmas that seems to be able to do all of these things for us, and it defies explanation or reason. It is really a miracle; and it seems to happen every year, it never fails.”

December 1981, Rev. Nelson Hodder: “There will be many reasons to be thankful in this Christmas season, in this we all agree. There will be expressions of thanks in what will be done to help others. The foremost reason for thanks will be that ‘His Wonderful Name’ will be spoken and sung with gladness and hope in many lands throughout the world, in many languages, in many hearts, and so will continue for ages to come.”

December 1988, Rev. Bobby Fillier: “Long for and walk in a search for hope this Christmas, hope found in the Christ child and in the finding of your personal hope, a future that leads you on forever. Then pass the joy of your discovery to members of your family, friends and others who would join with you in the journey of life.”

December 1998, Vera Marshall: “Soon the Christmas story from scriptures, the legendary writings, and the beautiful carols will be retold and rendered throughout the world. Photographs of gaily decorated trees and homes, wide eyed children and family gatherings will be captured. These are customary memories to be preserved and cherished. There are other Christmas memories not so ordinary, of special people and times—these are memories of the heart.”

I would imagine that there have been more words written and composed about Christmas than any other event in history. Some are timeless and hopefully will be read and sung for ages.

On December 9 UCW and AOTS will come together to share a Christmas evening with a dinner and entertainment—just what church family should be doing. Recently our UCW and AOTS choirs have combined to bring leadership to some Sunday services. We are led by the capable and jovial Doreen Brown.

I leave you now with words from an anthem we will be sharing with you during the Christmas season.

We hear the sound of angel voices  
We see the light to guide our way  
O Holy Child, proof of God’s caring  
O share your love with us this day.

With all the shepherds we are kneeling  
While angels sing on Christmas Day  
O Holy Child, we seek your blessing  
We need your love this Christmas Day.

To all of you, a Happy and Blessed Christmas on behalf of  
the United Church Women.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 22

9:00 am Contemporary Worship

11:00 am Advent 4 LOVE

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Family Worship

6:30 to 7:30 pm



## PROJECT GRACE



Project Grace's eighth season is off to a busy and exciting start! Our After School program has 38 students enrolled across a range of classes. We are currently offering beginner, junior and senior violin, three classes of piano, junior and senior cello, junior and senior flute, and senior clarinet. This year we welcome back Teaching Artists Susannah McKenzie-Sutter, Naomi Brown, Cleary Maddigan, Tabitha Payzant, James Paluk and Holly Winter. Additionally, we welcome Arlene Johnson (B.Mus, Flute student from MUN School of Music) as our Thursday afternoon supervisor.

Our students are having a busy semester of lessons and orchestral rehearsals: they are working towards our Fall Semester Showcase on Sunday, December 8, at 3 pm in the Sanctuary at St. James United Church. We will hear solo and small ensemble performances from all classes, as well as a very special performance from our Project Grace Youth Orchestra. We invite all our friends and family to join us for this annual holiday event, which will feature many popular melodies! Admission is by freewill donation at the door. This concert will be sure to get you in the holiday spirit!

This fall we also ran an eight-week session of Music Lessons for Grownups! This semester featured lessons on ukulele and flute. We are considering running piano lessons for grownups during the winter semester – please let us know if you would like to participate!

At this time Project Grace is running a holiday fundraiser and an annual holiday campaign: each December we encourage friends of the program to consider supporting our students by purchasing small musical items to “Stuff Our Stocking”! This year Project Grace is asking for cleaning cloths and sticks for flutes, and rosin for violin & cello bows. We can always use A and E strings for  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  size violins as well! If you are interested in helping us out, the elves at Long & McQuade Musical Instruments would be happy to help you make your choice! We also accept donations of gently used music books and musical instruments (in good working condition – no guitars). Please contact us if you are interested in making a donation!

Project Grace wants to help our friends complete their Christmas shopping! To make your life easy, we are selling a limited number of our beautiful Swarovski Crystal Starfish necklaces – your choice of crystal clear or royal blue, both on sterling silver chains. Each necklace is \$35. For every necklace purchased, Project Grace is able to provide *one hour of musical instruction to deserving children!!*

Our winter is looking busy, with plans for a Chapters fundraising night, a fun Valentine's Day fundraising campaign, and our annual Winter Semester Showcase. Please stay in touch with us by liking and following us on social media – we have Instagram, Twitter and Facebook! You can also keep up to date by checking in with our website, [www.projectgrace.ca](http://www.projectgrace.ca)

Respectfully submitted,

Gillian Sheppard, Executive Director

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@ProjectGraceNL

### PROJECT GRACE OPEN HOUSE AT THE BETHANY CENTER

(10 Paton Street - former Manse)  
Tuesday, December 10, 4:30-6 pm.

Please drop by for some tea, coffee, hot chocolate and sweets, along with a holiday sing a long! Some of our students and teaching artists will be performing, and you'll have the opportunity to see what we've been up to next door!



## O COME, EMMANUEL

### St. James Christmas Concert

St. James warmly welcomes everyone to join us in the joy of celebrating Christ's birth at their Christmas concert "O Come, Emmanuel" on Sunday evening, December 15, 7 pm.

The concert will be a varied evening of Christmas music showcasing the musical talents of St. James United Church and the local community. Performers include:

- the St. James Senior Choir
- Amy Dalziel, organist
- Shelby Marshall, violinist
- Gillian Sheppard, flutist
- Glenda Winsor, soprano and
- Project Grace students

A freewill offering will be collected at the door.



## DID YOU KNOW CONTEMPORARY SERVICE IS MOVING?

Beginning January 4, 2020, the contemporary service will be moving to 4:30 on Saturday afternoons. This will allow us more flexibility in the winter months during a weather event. It will also allow people who cannot attend Sunday mornings an opportunity to worship with us.



## SUSAN'S LOOSE THREADS SEWING STUDIO

**Winter Session begins Monday, January 20, 2020:** Looking to join a sociable group? No matter your gender, age, ability or faith, drop in anytime between 3 and 6 pm. Bring along a project you are working on or start a new one.

Relax, sew, chat, laugh and receive help and friendship from others in a very informal atmosphere! No cost! Just bring your own materials and sewing machine.



**Refundable cans and bottles for recycling** that you wish to donate to:

**\*St. James Youth Ministries:** Please bring them along to the Recycling Depot's O'Leary Avenue location (behind Car Quest Auto Supplies building) and let them know they are for St. James, 722-1881. Hours of operation for the depot are Monday to Friday 9 am-4:45 pm and Saturday 8:45 am-4:45 pm.

**\*Project Grace:** Drop off recyclables at any Green Depot, and let them know they are for Project Grace.

*Merry Christmas from SuAn, Bruce, Linda, and Keith*





### BETHLEHEM MARKET by Jean Thompson

I wish to thank the Bethlehem Market committee for organizing our special event; and a sincere thank you to those who donated food, helped to set up and clean up, assisted at the market stalls, offered their musical talent; and a special thank you to the beautiful family at the manger scene. A most sincere thank you to everyone who was part of the event! The Bethlehem Market was a tremendous success with great support from both our congregation and our community. We hope to see you all again next year. Mark your calendars!





**THE SENIOR CHOIR**

The St. James United Church Senior Choir meets weekly on Tuesday evening from 7:30 pm until 9:00 pm for practice. Our Choir consists of four vocal parts for women and men: Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass sections. We enjoy learning new anthems especially for Easter and Christmas seasons, as well as singing our favourite hymns. Our work provides hymn leadership for the congregation during worship services and offers outreach through our love of music by praising God with song.

St. James United Church Senior Choir is recruiting! If you have an interest in singing, we would love to have you sing with us! We rehearse once a week and sing during 11 am Sunday morning worship services twice a month. Our choir is open to ALL skill levels - we're all about making music together and having fun!

Please feel free to contact our Associate Music Director Branden Olsen at [bwcolsen@mun.ca](mailto:bwcolsen@mun.ca) if you have any questions or if you would like to join us!



**YOUR GIVINGS ENVELOPES**

Have you received your special envelopes? Our church bases much of its budget on special collections at Thanksgiving, our Anniversary and Christmas. If you have received these envelopes, we encourage you to return them with your regular collection. If you don't have one, let us know and we'll make arrangements. We sincerely thank everyone for their ongoing support!!



This Donate button is available on the front page of our website to facilitate credit card donations. Often, this method is used to donate in honour of or in memory of loved ones. Please visit [www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)

Please note: The financial year end will be Tuesday, December 31. Please call our Treasurer, Jean Thompson, if you have any questions.

**PAR AUTHORIZATION CARD**

I hereby request and authorize The United Church of Canada:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Address of Local Church

To issue a cheque each month on my account in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a contribution by me to the above local church.

Contributor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Bank A/C # \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Account \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution: Local \_\_\_\_\_ M&S \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of Bank or Trust Co. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of the congregation, the Church Council extends a special thank you to the members of the UCW and AOTS for their support during the year. Their efforts to organize special events and make financial contributions to M&S and the life and work of the church are greatly appreciated.





**2020 TECH TIME SCHEDULE**

**DID YOU RECEIVE A NEW TABLET OR SMART PHONE FOR CHRISTMAS?**

**Saturday, January 4: Come to our 2020 Tech Time 10am – noon in the Fellowship Room**

This is a special session to help you set up and learn how to use any of your new electronic devices.

**TECH TIME CONTINUES ON JANUARY 25**

**And on the Third Saturday in the Month**

Bring your electronic devices along for assistance in solving their many mysteries. Whether it is simply extracting your photos from your phone or unraveling a tangly software issue, our techies have answers!



**bridges to hope**

NEIGHBOURS FEEDING NEIGHBOURS

Please remember Bridges to Hope. Bring a non-perishable food item for our Food Chest when you come along to any service so we can help our neighbours.

**CHRISTMAS OFFICE SCHEDULE**

Monday, December 23: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Tuesday, December 24: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Wednesday, December 25: **Closed**

Thursday, December 26: **Closed**

Monday, December 30: 10 am to 3 pm

Tuesday, December 31: 10 am to 3 pm

Wednesday, January 1: **Closed**

Church mail, outside of office hours, may be placed in the secure mail slot (lock box) to the right of the exterior office door.

**Memory Tree Form**



At this time of the year, thoughts of our loved ones are never far from our minds. One of the ways we acknowledge this is through the Memory Tree. For a donation of \$5, a coloured bulb will be changed to a white one in memory or celebration of a loved one. The changing of the lights is a beautiful seasonal visible symbol. Even when the tree comes down, the gift continues in the ongoing projects at St. James.



Please have your form in by **noon** on Monday, December 16.

Name of person donating: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory or Celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation

**Accessibility at St. James United Church**

**Hearing Devices**

**Wheel Chairs**

**Enlarged Bulletins**

If you wish to use either of the above services we offer, please check with one of our ushers and they will be happy to assist you.



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE - January to April 2020

Date	Time	Details	Music
January 5	11 am	Celebration of Epiphany <b>Baptism</b>	Senior Choir
January 12	11 am	Baptism of Jesus <b>Communion</b>	AOTS/UCW
January 19	11 am	2nd Sunday after Epiphany <b>Coffee Hour—Admin/Stewardship</b> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service	Senior Choir
January 26	11 am	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	Senior Choir
February 2	11 am	4th Sunday after Epiphany <b>Baptism</b>	Guest Choir St. John's Gay Men's Chorus
February 9	11 am	5th Sunday after Epiphany	AOTS/UCW
February 16	11 am	6th Sunday after Epiphany <b>Coffee Hour—Senior Choir</b>	Guitar Group
February 23	11 am	Transfiguration Sunday	Senior Choir
February 26	Noon	Ash Wednesday—the first of a series of noon time Lenten services; may include Communion	
March 1	11 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent <b>Baptism</b>	Senior Choir
March 8	11 am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent <b>Communion</b>	AOTS/UCW
March 15	11 am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent <b>Coffee Hour—UCW</b>	Guest Choir Newfound Sound
March 22	11 am	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	Senior Choir
March 29	11 am	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent      Service of Music	Pop Up Choir
April 5	11 am	Palm Sunday <b>Baptism</b>	AOTS/UCW
April 12	11 am	Easter Sunday Worship <b>Communion</b>	Senior Choir

**NOTE: CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP WILL BE HELD EVERY SATURDAY AT 4:30 PM**

#### TO CONTACT US:

St. James United Church  
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[www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)  
Facebook: St. James United Church  
Twitter: StJamesUnited

#### OUR MINISTERIAL STAFF:

Full-time: Rev. Brian Colbourne  
Youth Ministry: Susan Sheppard, DLM