

## Life and Work – September 19, 2021

**We gratefully accept the following donation to the Memorial Fund:**

\*In loving memory of Josie Howell from the UCW

**Gearing Up for our Affirming Celebration:** Early in 2020, SJUC voted to become an Affirming Ministry, a designation that celebrates the diversity of our community of faith and wider community. It was a day to celebrate.

Unfortunately, because of the ongoing pandemic, we haven't been able to have a public celebration yet (a requirement for official designation), but we hope to in the Spring of 2022. In anticipation of this, the Diversity Committee proposes that we have a series of mini-celebrations/affirmations (about one per month) as a way to gear up for our public celebration. This Sunday marks our first with the acknowledgement of Bisexual Awareness Week. We are a diverse community. We are a community where everyone belongs. This is definitely worth celebrating.

**What's In a Name?** Since the arrival of our minister, a few people have asking what he prefers to be called. The answer is invariably James.

Simply going by his first name rather than adding a Rev. before it has been his preference in every United Church congregation he has served, and that includes for children, teens, and young adults.

Now he will respond to Rev. James (if you are more comfortable with that), Jamie (if you are an older member of his family), or even Jim (and then he will correct you) but be assured that his preference is for young and old alike to call him James. As he puts it "My parents paid good money to have me christened as James so I had better use that name."

**Book Group** - Would you enjoy exploring the Biblical Creation Stories? Come join our book group! This is a 5-week study of Donald Schmidt's "Creation for Progress Christians" starting early October. The group will meet Monday's from 8pm - 9pm via Zoom.

E-books are available through Woodlake Publishing.

### **Calling all members of St. James, We want to hear from you!**

The "St. James Visitor" would like to include more content from our members, so we are putting the call out for submissions, and we would love to hear from you.

What stories do you have to tell us? How has your faith helped you through these "unprecedented times", or anytime for that matter? Have you written a short story? A poem?

You can submit your work/thoughts/ideas to the *Administration & Communications Committee*, and we will get in touch with you regarding your entry for any future issue of the "St. James Visitor".

Email your submission to St. James Office at [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org) with the subject "Visitor Submission"

**Please note:** This is a file of submissions we are building for future issues of the "St. James Visitor," so please don't feel discouraged if you don't see yours in the upcoming 2021 Thanksgiving issue.

\*All entries will be reviewed and edited for grammar and spelling.

\*Submit only your own work.

\*By submitting, you agree to allow St. James to publish your work. \*All copyright remains with the author.

**Worship Notes:**

Over the last few weeks since James arrived, you will have noticed the addition of poetry and other types of readings as part of worship. This practice is rooted in Methodist tradition, namely that in addition to the Bible, John Wesley held that Christian teaching should be based not just on scripture but also tradition, experience, and reason.

While the bible is still our primary source of teaching, including readings/poetry in worship honours how God speaks to us in many ways. Practically it also gives us some flexibility in shaping worship services. Note as well that the scripture selections from the *Revised Common Lectionary* still take pride of place in the service.

In addition to there being two readings for a given Sunday, James often bases the Call to Worship on the Psalm of the day.