



EASTER 2022

THE VISITOR

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH

Tending to your *faith*

THIS ISSUE:

MINISTRY MESSAGE

PAGE 03

ARE YOU ON PAR?

PAGE 05

TENDING TO YOUR FAITH

PAGE 06

EASTER BLESSING


PAGE 08

DIVERSITY MESSAGE

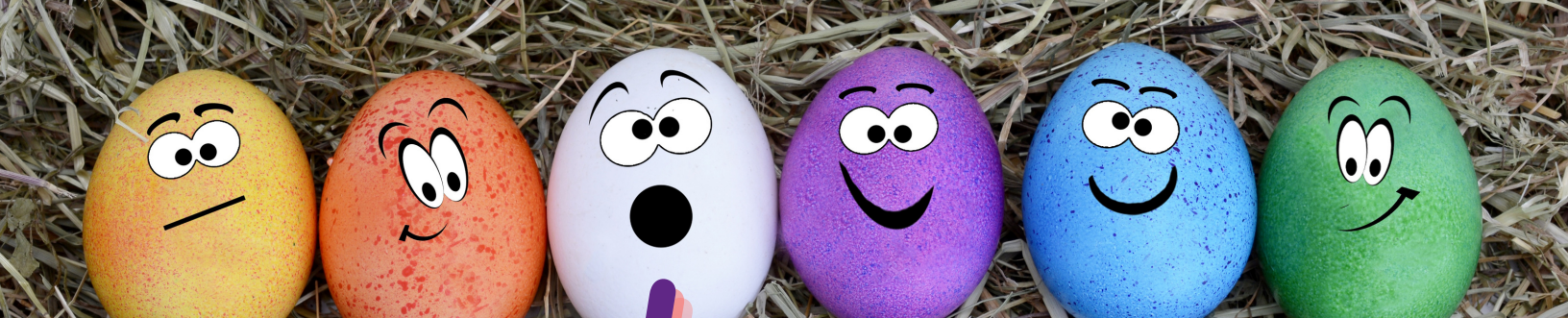
PAGE 10

FAMILY FUN

PAGE 15



I made gardens and parks for myself and
I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees
- Ecclesiastes 2:5



Thank you!

Happy Easter and Spring everyone!

Editing a newsletter can be a daunting task. There are so many people involved and juggling all the balls, or eggs, in the air can be a little stressful sometimes. But this edition of The Visitor couldn't have been done without the help of many people of St. James United Church.

Firstly, I wish to thank Sarah Norman for handing over the reins. She has done an amazing job with The Visitor and has been a great help for all my questions.

Secondly, I wish to thank everyone who contributed to this issue. St. James continues to thrive even with the setbacks of the pandemic and forced closures. Thank you for keeping the lights on!

Finally, thank you, dear reader, as a member of St. James, your involvement with the church keeps you connected to the community. That connection is vital for our church by helping our local and global community through fundraisers, hymn sings, and exciting projects in the future.

I hope you have a wonderful Easter season and get to enjoy the spring warmth.

Sincerely,
Glen Warren, Editor

St. James United Church
330 Elizabeth Avenue
St. John's, NL A1B 1T9

Phone: 709-722-1881

www.stjamesuc.org

Ministers:
Rev. James Ravenscroft
Susan Sheppard, DLM



@StJamesUnited



st.jamesuc



StJamesUCNL

Worship with us!
Sundays, 11:00 am

Ministry Message

REV. JAMES RAVENSCROFT

Here we are, well into Lent and looking toward both the celebrations of Holy Week and the Season of Easter. These past weeks of Lent we have been marking "40 Days of Contemplation and Action". In this time, we have engaged in spiritual practices as part of the Sunday service and had the opportunity to explore it more fully as part of our Wednesday brown-bag lunch and communion celebrations. Folks have had a chance to walk the labyrinth, pray reflectively with scripture, practice centering prayer and more, all to give people a chance to find a practice they can adopt and grow spiritually. But this is just the contemplation part. We have also been able to live out that spiritual growth by using the calendar put together by our Social and Eco Action Committee, not just looking at impacts of our lifestyle choices but seeking change in the world by supporting organizations funded by the Mission and Service Fund.

Joining contemplation and action together is not just about Lent, but about Holy Week and Easter as well. Consider the moments in Jesus' life that we will reflect upon in the joint services led by United Church leaders in Metro St. John's. We recall how Jesus cleansed the Temple, Mary anointed Jesus' feet, Jesus gathered with his friends to celebrate the Passover and washed their feet, inviting us to do the same, all leading to his death on the cross and the resurrection. We prayerfully recall each of these in turn, culminating in the celebration of the Easter Vigil service on Holy Saturday, one of the church's most profound and ancient liturgies.

In all of the services of Holy Week, we celebrate quite active accounts and yet prayer is part of each of them. Jesus finds the capacity to do what he did through his being immersed in his relationship with God. We see this most profoundly in the transition between Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, as he prays in the Garden of Gethsemane, seeking the courage to face what was coming next.

"A good man,
is a good
man,
whether in
this church
or out of it."

BRIGHAM YOUNG





Ministry Message - con't

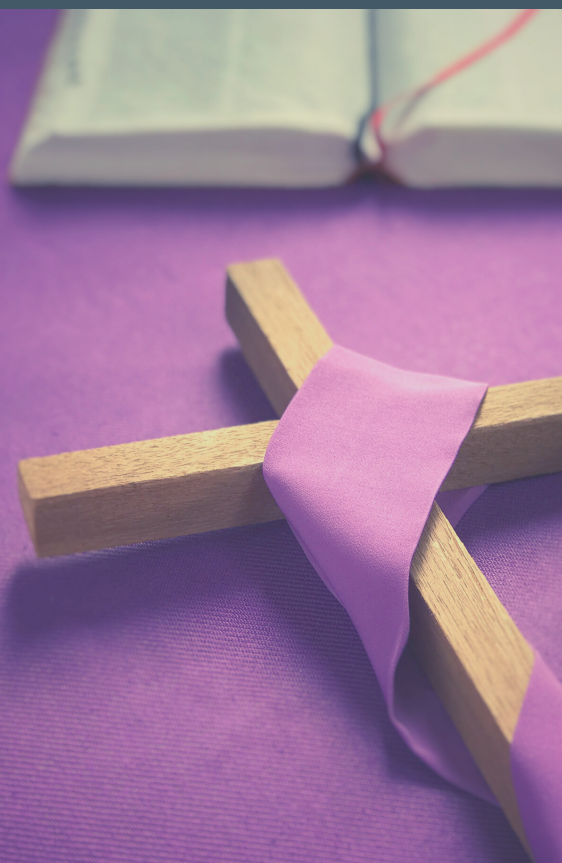
REV. JAMES RAVENSCROFT

The stories we hear throughout the Easter Season show us the same pattern. The women go to the tomb to prayerfully anoint Jesus' body and angels tell them that Jesus has been raised from the dead. Two disciples are leaving Jerusalem for fear of the authorities and the stranger who walked with them is revealed to be Jesus as they break bread (code for communion). Again and again Jesus appears to them as they pray, and he continues to work through them as the apostles share the good news with others and communities are formed where they share what they own in common and look after those among them in most need. Prayer and action going hand in hand as the Christian community grows not just in the number of people but the people themselves grow in their relationship with God in Christ.

That pattern is the foundation for any one of us who seeks to follow Christ in our lives. But it takes time and dedication as we turn to God in prayer and drawn on the wisdom, insight and strength we discover in that relationship to discern how we can be of service in our community and world. I am thankful then that we have these seasons to go deeper, not just each Lent but in the fifty days of the Easter Season, leading us from the empty tomb of Easter Sunday to the apostles empowered by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to continue on where Jesus left off, immersing themselves in prayer and responding with action in the world. May these remaining days of Lent and the coming weeks of Easter be a time of continued growth in prayer, of sustained actions for change in the world, of dedication to the two-fold way of following Christ, the one who both suffered on the cross and is present with us, risen in God's love and grace.

"Let all
that you
do be done
in love"

1 CORINTHIANS
16:14





Just open your camera
on your phone and
scan the code for the
PAR form

Are you on PAR?

You can ensure that your community of faith and those who are helped through Mission & Service can count on your support by giving monthly through Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). Through an automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account, PAR allows you to give to what matters to you most.

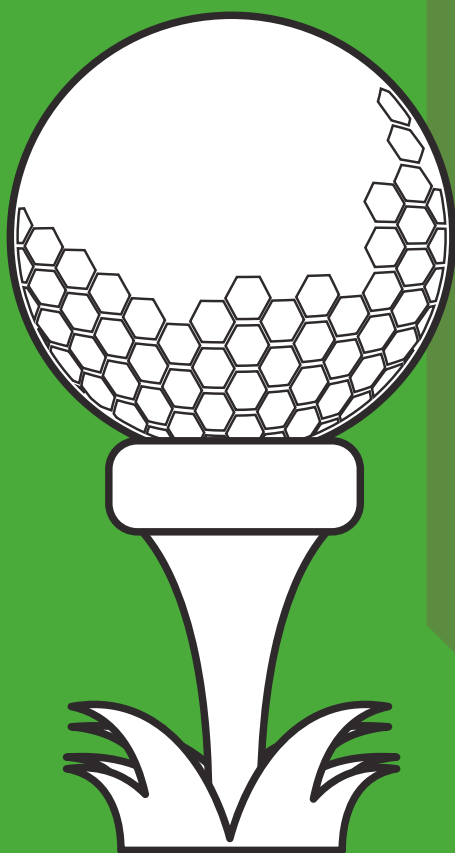
Sometimes life's agenda takes over our best-laid plans. With PAR, you don't have to worry about writing a cheque or forgetting to donate because life has thrown you off course. By signing up for PAR, you make a clear statement of what is important to you. You also give the recipients of your gift the peace of mind that comes with knowing your help is stable and reliable.

It's really easy.

A dependable flow of contributions helps keep the church, and most importantly the good work the church does, on financially stable ground.

Thank you for your gift!

Please visit www.stjamesuc.org to set up your PAR givings.





Tending to your *faith*

The root system of a plant is where essential nutrients are absorbed and distributed to the rest of the plant. Roots provide stability, nourishment, and longevity to the plant. We must be strategic in the way we fertilize our spiritual roots in order to promote steady growth and reap a bountiful harvest. Slow and steady growth is the key to establishing a deeper faith. It's so tempting to try to rush the process by any means necessary, but we must never allow our desire to produce a harvest to overshadow our need to protect and nourish our roots.

We all struggle to thrive where we are planted.

Get to know your needs with your faith journey. When you plant too close together, some plants don't get enough light or water and eventually get choked out. If you've been with the same church group and you don't feel your faith growing *maybe* it's time to re-plant. Join another committee within the church, or take a break to recharge, or even search out other congregations. You know what's best for you. Soon, though, you'll find a faith group which gives you enough space to grow and thrive.

Growing deep roots takes time and a solid strategy.

The beautiful thing about gardening is many, many smart people have journeyed the path before you and willingly share their knowledge with novices. The same rings true for our faith walk. If you want to grow a deeper faith, find a Christian mentor to teach you all they know about creating the best conditions for sustaining spiritual root systems. Reach out and ask questions. There's always someone willing to help you explore your faith journey. Roots grow in all directions, searching for nutrients, so don't let one voice be the only source of your faith. Cultivate relationships with many people, with differing opinions to feel your faith journey grow.

continued on next page...



It's impossible to garden without getting dirty.

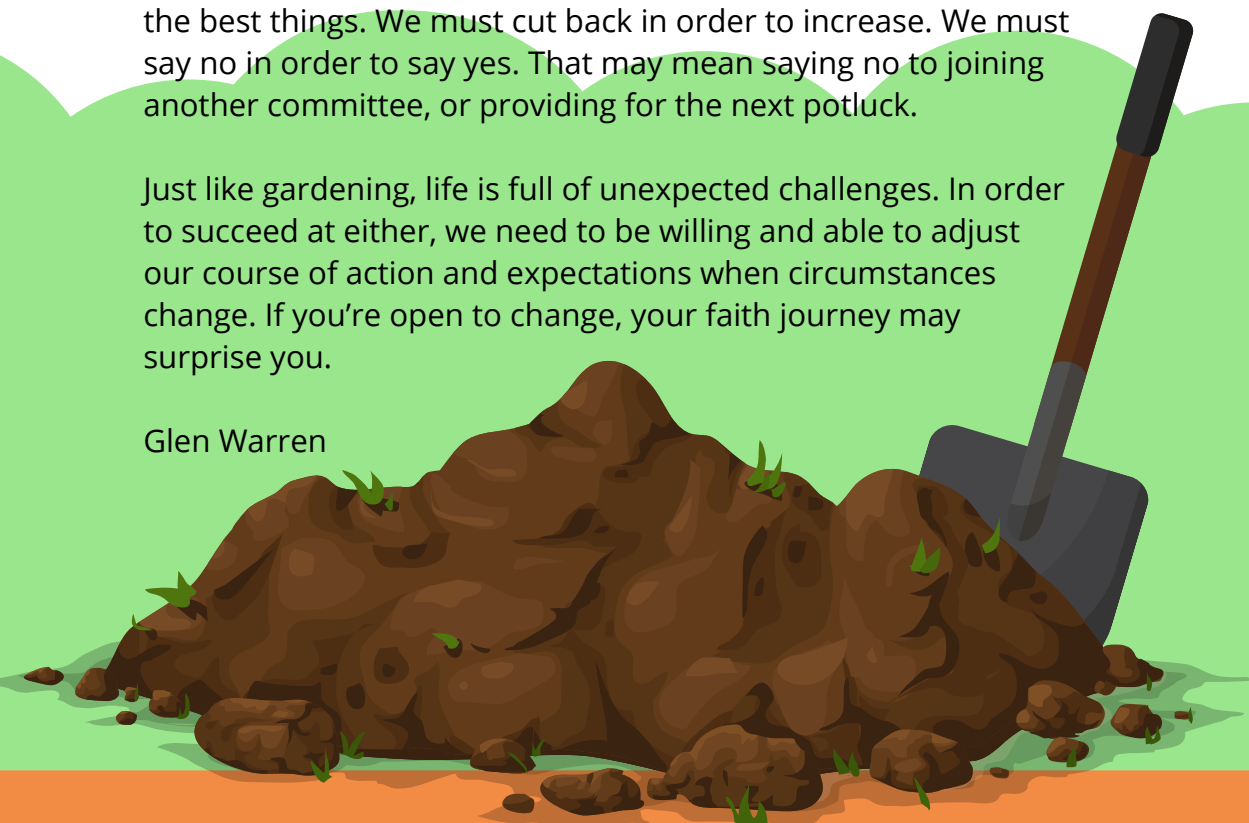
Every good gardener knows roots need oxygen to stay healthy and do their job of gathering water and nutrients for the plant. In the same way, we need to be willing to faithfully till the compact soil in our own lives. We must work to soften the places where we are impenetrable, impermeable, and hardened by the people who have walked all over us in the past. In order to grow a deeper faith, we must pray often, to reveal our “hard spots” and give us strength to walk in forgiveness and grace.

Want to reduce
your paper?
Receive the newsletter
as an email!
Contact the office
at 722-1881
or info@stjamesuc.org

Pruning is a painful, yet necessary process for healthy plant growth. We must accept the fact that we can have it all, but we can't have it all at once. In order to grow a deep faith, we must learn how to set aside the good things in order to grab a hold of the best things. We must cut back in order to increase. We must say no in order to say yes. That may mean saying no to joining another committee, or providing for the next potluck.

Just like gardening, life is full of unexpected challenges. In order to succeed at either, we need to be willing and able to adjust our course of action and expectations when circumstances change. If you're open to change, your faith journey may surprise you.

Glen Warren





AN EASTER BLESSING

Easter is that special season of the year that speaks to renewal, new life, and the emergence of changing seasons in our own lives and the natural world around us. Above all it is that special time of the year when we celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Saviour and His triumph over death. It is also a special season of reflection and hope which is best captured in the beauty of the Easter lily.

These past two pandemic years have brought many dramatic changes and challenges throughout the entire world and few of us have escaped its direct and indirect impacts. Nowhere has this been more evident than in our own church community where we have endured a true sense of isolation from one another because of worship and other public restrictions. And as these and other individual and community wide restrictions give way to greater freedoms in our daily lives we pray, at this Easter season, that this greater freedom will give way to a renewed sense of hope and joy in our lives.

The St. James Men's Club, like other St. James groups and organizations, has faced many challenges these past several years. We have not been able to meet as a group and the fellowship associated with our many activities throughout the church year has been missed terribly. Gone as well during this period were our Club's regular pastoral visits to the Pleasant View Towers, our spring and fall fish dinners, our regular monthly dinner meetings, our AOTS men's choir participation in our church services, and our outreach church services to outlying communities. As we reflect on this sense of "loss" we also remember those dedicated members of our Club and our congregation who have passed away over the past several years or more. In far too many ways we were not able to celebrate lives lived with a true sense of dedication and purpose but we deeply remember their faith journeys amongst us.

Now that pandemic mandates are scheduled to be lifted on or about March 14, 2022 it is our hope that we will be able to commence most of our routine activities at that time. We have approximately 20 members in our AOTS Club and we encourage men of all ages in our congregation to consider joining with us as we rebuild and rejuvenate the AOTS over the foreseeable future.

We wish everyone the true blessings of Easter.

Les Dean, Past President, AOTS

AOTS
As One That Serves



Holy Week

Join the churches of the United Communities of Faith for our Annual Joint Holy Week Services. Each year, we gather together to journey to the cross. Come and participate in these special services as we join together with the wider church community to mark this holy season.

Monday, April 11, 7:30 pm - First United Church, Mount Pearl

Tuesday, April 12, 7:30 pm - Cochrane Street United Church

Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 pm - Wesley United Church

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7:30 pm - Topsail United Church

Good Friday, April 15, Noon - Gower Street United Church

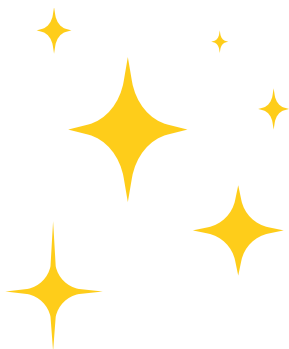
Holy Saturday, April 16, 7:30 pm - St. James United Church



DIVERSITY MESSAGE

"For we are
God's
handiwork,
created to do
good works,
which God
prepared in
advance for
us to do."

Ephesians
2:10



Firstly I want to thank you all for the support you have given to the Diversity committee throughout this entire Affirming process! The celebration was a big hit and I cannot wait to see what we will do as an Affirming congregation. With that being said here are some things we are looking forward to doing in the future. Our Diversity fair is going to make a comeback this fall and we already have some community organizations reaching out to participate. Our learning sessions will make a comeback as well after the summer but in a little bit of a different format which you will have to watch out for! Lastly ASL interpreters will be present for our bigger celebrations such as Christmas and Easter. If you ever have a project that you want to get started that you think diversity might be able to help with please do not hesitate to reach out. Our ears and hearts are always open to help congregation members! Once again, thank you for your encouragement and I hope you will continue to support us in the coming years.

Hannah Sheppard
Chair of Diversity

Memorial Hymn Sing

This Year's Hymn Selections

1. Blessed Assurance
2. Deep in Our Hearts
3. Here I am Lord
4. In the Garden
5. Morning Has Broken
6. Shall We Gather at the River
7. Tell Me the Stories of Jesus
8. The Church in the Wildwood
9. What a Friend We Have in Jesus
10. Will Your Anchor Hold

Each year we take time to remember our loved ones through the fellowship of song. This year our Memorial Hymn Sing will be held on Sunday, May 15, with music provided by the St. James Guitar Group and our Music Director, Amy Dalziel.

We invite you to join us for this special service to celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us in faith, lifting up the memory of those who contributed so much to our lives. By selecting a hymn in dedication to your loved ones, you are contributing to the life and work of the church, your donation helping to enhance and support the various programs and activities that make St. James United Church the faith community that we love. Please extend an invitation to family and friends who would also like to participate in the ministry of this congregation by making a donation, or by attending the service.

All dedication requests will be acknowledged in the Memorial Hymn Sing bulletin.

The amount of your contribution is confidential. A tax receipt will be issued.

Simply return the bottom portion of this form with your donation by: bringing it into the office, placing it in the secure drop-box to the right of the Annex entrance, or submitting your hymn sing selection via email to info@stjamesuc.org, being sure to include "Hymn Sing" in the subject line and indicating your means of donation (drop-box, CanadaHelps, website donate button or e-transfer). Cheques are payable to St. James United Church. The deadline for submitting your selection and donation is Sunday, May 1, 2022.

Name of Contributor: _____

Envelope No. OR Address: _____ Donation: \$ _____

Hymn Choice No. _____ In Memory of: _____

To contribute more "in memoriams", please use a separate sheet for each, clearly attributing the contributor's name to loved one's name & selected hymn no.; amount; & envelope no./address.



EASTER GREETINGS

What a wonderful time is Spring. The cold, rainy, & snowy days are behind us we hope, we celebrate the arrival of blossoming flowers, warmer weather & longer days, and we observe the forty days of Lent leading up to Easter with the message of new life and hope. Especially now hope with the lifting of new restrictions with some of Covid-19 behind us.

We are strong as a U.C.W. to keep going. Covid-19 has put such a devastating disaster on our U.C.W. and our church. Our meetings of worship and fun have diminished so much we wonder if things will ever be the same again. We hope so. We have to have hope for a better tomorrow. March is a month of hope, of looking ahead, of closing the doors and opening them to brighter days ahead. Snow may yet sweep over the land and winds & rain, but each day of longer sun brightens our pathway. It lifts our Spirit and makes it easy to get around. The U.C.W. is looking forward to a better beginning in the fall.

We extend a warm welcome to all women who would like to become a member of our U.C.W. You will find great friends. As we enter into the Holy Season of Easter, we are invited to enter into the Passion of God's Messiah. It is a time to explore the reality and the deep meaning of the suffering Christ. It is a time to remember and reflect upon what was done for you and for me.

It is a time to ask ourselves what meaning do we find in the death and resurrection of Jesus for ourselves and our world. Happy Easter to all.

Hope the Easter Bunny brings you lots of treats.

Don't eat them all a once.

Betty Pilgrim, Co-President, U.C.W.

St. James United Church

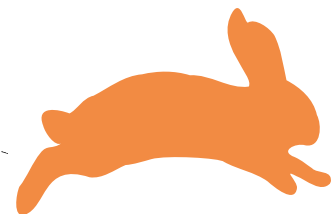
takeout
Chicken Dinner

**Saturday,
April 30, 2022**

\$18

**Have a Fabulous Dinner
To Go!**

709-722-1881 - info@stjamesuc.org



UCW
United Church Women

St. James

Income Snapshot

Below is the January Income Statement for the last four years. 2019 was a year that we were in full swing with programs and groups up and running with a full staff. In 2020 we had the biggest snow fall we had in years and were closed for a couple of Sundays. COVID-19 started mid March and Rev. Brian retired at the end of June requiring pulpit supply fill in on Sundays. In 2021 we were almost a full year with COVID-19 and people not attending church, all programs stopped. Our Sunday services were under the care of pulpit supply for seven months when Rev. James arrived. In 2022, we were in lock down due to COVID-19 while the church was closed for January. You will notice the decline in revenue over the past three years mainly due to restrictions and people not attending church. Our church expenses have remained consistent and in 2021 we had a decrease in salaries. Our challenge for 2022 will be to increase our revenue so that we will not have a deficit at year end. More on the budget at our annual meeting on Sunday, March 27th.

Jean Thompson
Treasurer



| | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| REVENUE | | | | |
| Collections | | | | |
| Envelopes | 7,318.33 | 12,407.33 | 12,159.33 | 12,825.33 |
| Other Envelopes | 254.00 | 392.00 | 1,085.20 | 1,296.50 |
| Rentals | 415.00 | 300.00 | 0.00 | 330.00 |
| Other | 50.00 | 200.00 | 100.00 | 340.00 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | <u>8,037.33</u> | <u>13,299.33</u> | <u>13,344.53</u> | <u>14,791.83</u> |
| EXPENSE | | | | |
| Church | | | | |
| Repairs and Maintenance | 534.97 | 0.00 | 130.14 | 2,669.65 |
| Heat | 5,578.96 | 3,583.70 | 3,763.97 | 6,057.12 |
| 10 Paton | 0.00 | 248.37 | 343.92 | 643.24 |
| Light | 351.92 | 387.36 | 898.98 | 603.00 |
| Other Expenses | 802.52 | 3,261.19 | 1,335.62 | 1,708.27 |
| Total Church | <u>7,268.37</u> | <u>7,480.62</u> | <u>6,472.63</u> | <u>11,681.28</u> |
| Salaries and Allowances | | | | |
| Ministers & Administration Salaries | 10,561.35 | 6,135.89 | 11,157.54 | 11,060.43 |
| Support Staff | 1,441.66 | 1,366.67 | 1,366.67 | 1,356.17 |
| Employee Benefits | 2,584.15 | 944.71 | 2,347.02 | 2,274.40 |
| Telephone | 17.50 | 17.50 | 67.50 | 67.50 |
| Total Salaries and Allowances | <u>14,604.66</u> | <u>8,464.77</u> | <u>14,938.73</u> | <u>14,758.50</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | <u>21,873.03</u> | <u>15,945.39</u> | <u>21,411.36</u> | <u>26,439.78</u> |
| NET INCOME | <u><u>-13,835.70</u></u> | <u><u>-2,646.06</u></u> | <u><u>-8,066.83</u></u> | <u><u>-11,647.95</u></u> |

*Editor note: In accounting expenses are subtracted from revenue,
so that's why the net income may be negative

COOK WITH KIDS

RESURRECTION ROLLS

A great Easter recipe to do with the kids! Rolls with marshmallows wrapped inside, which become hollow as they bake, it represents the tomb of Jesus on Easter morning, when you break them open they are empty inside!

Ingredients

- 1 (10 ounce) can refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
- 8 large marshmallows
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup melted butter
- 2 tablespoons ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons white sugar

Directions

Step 1 Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Lightly grease a baking sheet.

Step 2 Separate crescent rolls into individual triangles.

Step 3 In a small bowl, mix together cinnamon and sugar.

Step 4 Dip a marshmallow into melted butter, then roll in sugar mixture. Place marshmallow into the center of a dough triangle. Carefully wrap the dough around the marshmallow. Pinch the seams together tightly to seal in marshmallow as it melts. Place on a baking sheet. Repeat.

Step 5 Bake in a preheated oven until golden brown, about 15 minutes.



COLOURING PAGE

HAPPY EASTER





DIVERSITY WORD SEARCH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | N | K | R | W | A | M | I | L | P | K | R | F | L | N |
| Z | W | T | K | P | F | D | D | A | A | Z | S | C | S | N |
| A | N | O | D | G | E | P | C | U | N | J | Q | Z | R | Q |
| V | F | F | S | N | Y | O | Y | X | S | C | R | K | J | V |
| X | Q | F | T | P | P | A | D | E | E | R | X | W | D | R |
| I | W | I | I | I | I | C | G | S | X | M | Z | W | E | G |
| D | T | P | B | R | S | R | K | I | U | J | I | D | Z | Y |
| Y | R | M | H | J | M | R | I | B | A | O | N | Q | I | O |
| R | S | M | T | G | N | S | J | T | L | E | T | B | L | S |
| Q | D | E | Z | I | L | A | N | I | G | R | A | M | A | R |
| T | C | N | J | F | Q | Q | D | S | G | T | K | Y | I | M |
| N | A | I | B | S | E | L | N | Q | U | E | E | R | C | R |
| G | E | O | Q | K | W | A | I | L | K | B | H | P | A | E |
| G | D | H | Q | U | R | E | C | S | D | O | I | B | R | L |
| S | Z | G | M | T | A | C | C | E | P | T | I | N | G | J |

ACCEPTING

AFFIRM

BIPOC

BISEXUAL

GAY

IDENTITY

LESBIAN

MARGINALIZED

PANSEXUAL

QUEER

RACIALIZED

TRANSGENDER

TWOSPIRIT



Mark your calendars!

UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP DATES

April 15, 10:00 am - Good Friday Walk

April 16, 7:30 pm - Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

April 17, 9:30 am - Easter Egg Hunt with Breakfast

April 17, 11:00 am - Easter Sunday - Communion

May 1, 11:00 am - Communion

May 8, 11:00 am - Mother's Day Celebration

May 15, 11:00 am - Memorial Hymn Sing

June 5, 11:00 am - Pentecost Sunday - Confirmation and Communion

June 19, 11:00 am - Indigenous Peoples Sunday

June 26, 11:00 am - Remembering Memorial Day

July 10, 11:00 am - Communion

August 14, 11:00 am - Communion

Join us every week online, Saturdays, at 4:30 pm, for our contemporary worship service with Susan Sheppard, DLM, and Sundays, at 11:00 am, for our traditional service with Reverend James Ravenscroft.

Check www.stjamesuc.org for more information.