

Autumn 2022

THE VISITOR

Official Newsletter of St. James United Church

THIS ISSUE:

MINISTRY MESSAGE

Page 03

JOYFUL NOISE

Page 04

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Page 05

FINANCE REPORT

Page 06

MEN'S GROUP

Page 11

FAMILY FUN

Page 12



The
GRASS WITHERS &
The FLOWERS FADE,
but the **WORD**
of our **GOD**
STANDS FOREVER.

Isaiah 40:8



Happy Autumn to everyone.

The days are getting cooler and the nights are getting shorter. There's a crispness in the air, so it means that the fall season for the church has begun.

There are many great things happening this season and we want you to know about them. Thanksgiving and Halloween will be here soon, so share with friends and family.

Social groups are meeting again, so there's bound to be something to catch your fancy.

As ever, check with the church's website to keep up to date with meeting and events.

We hope to see you soon!

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

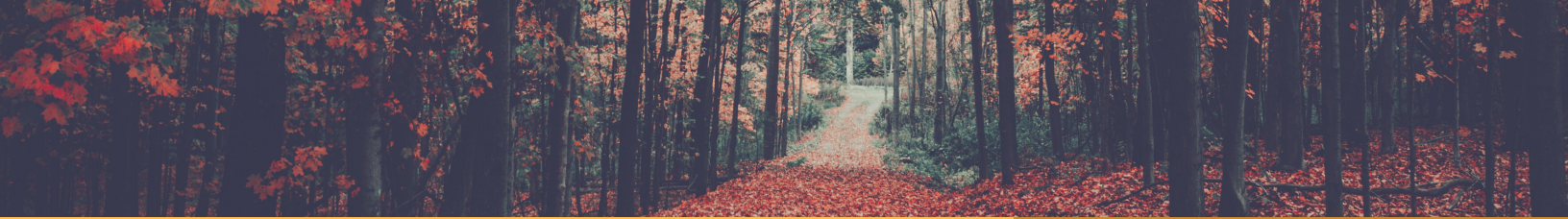


st.JamesUC



StJamesUCNL

Worship with us!
Sundays, 11:00 AM
EvenTide Service
Sunday, 7:00 PM



Ministry Message

JAMES RAVENSCROFT

It is hard to believe that a year has gone by since Glen and I moved to St. John's. A lot has happened in a year as we have gathered for worship, come together for learning events, held fundraisers, publicly celebrated becoming an Affirming Ministry, albeit always careful given the pandemic. We've needed to be careful, what with going into a lockdown just before Christmas. And yet, as we have weathered this, there's a desire to meet more in person again while maintaining the option of accessing events online.

There's much to look forward to in this regard over the next few months. The UCW are planning their Fall Fair. The AOTS Men's Group is getting ready to meet for their monthly lunches. Youth and children's activities are in the works. Small group ministries like the Sewing Group, Not-A-Bible-Study, and Potluck and Games are back in the calendar. Senior Choir has some new members and additional music groups are forming. And there are exciting shifts taking place in terms of evening worship, not only with a move from Saturday to Sunday but with new expressions of worship all under the name of EvenTide. And that is just in terms of gatherings. We also have a Constitution Review Committee working on proposals for how our governance is structured and seeking feedback over the next few months. It is all very exciting.

Now this doesn't mean that COVID-19 is fully behind us. We will need to be conscious of possible new waves of infection, especially as we head back indoors with lower temperatures. Given this, we will continue to offer online access to worship, meetings, learning events and other activities. This hybrid approach is an ongoing opportunity, a way to extend our reach as a congregation to our older members, people with mobility challenges, younger members who have moved away to school or for work.

But COVID or not, it is shaping up to be a good year, not just as we come back together but also as we intentionally reach out to neighbours. I'm sure that a year from now we will look back and recognize that we have turned a corner, that once again we see the St. James United Church we know and love.

THOSE WHO SOW
WITH TEARS
WILL REAP WITH
SONGS OF JOY.
THOSE WHO GO OUT
WEEPING,
CARRYING SEED
TO SOW,
WILL RETURN WITH
SONGS OF JOY,
CARRYING
SHEAVES WITH
THEM.

Psalm 126 : 5-6



Make a *joyful noise* unto the lord,
all the earth; make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Psalm 98

It is a privilege to continue serving as Director of Music at St. James United Church. The music program plays an important role in both worship and community, and I look forward to another exciting season of making “a joyful noise”.

Firstly, I want to extend my thanks, on behalf of the congregation, to the soloists who blessed us with their time and talent over the summer: Becca-Ann Bartlett, Marion Davis, Jean Rose, Stephanie Russell, Glen Warren, Glenda Winsor and Andie Winsor.

Over the next few weeks, the Senior Choir and Guitar Group will resume rehearsals and I look forward to their music enriching our Sunday 11 AM worship. The “Welcome Sunday” – September 25th – will feature a “Contemporary Ensemble”: a group we hope may re-form for a handful of services over the fall/spring.

Many members of the congregation will remember the “Pop-Up Choir” formed for our Service of Music in 2019 (pre-covid!) The church was full of energy as dozens of people of all ages and musical abilities attended a one-time 10 AM rehearsal and led the music for the 11 AM service. I hope to lead a “Pop-Up Choir” for the first Sunday of Advent: November 27th. More information will be available closer to the event, so keep an eye on the bulletin and congregational emails!

I am pleased to announce that Bob Rose has accepted the position of Associate Music Director. Bob needs no introduction – he is a skilled organist, an accomplished choral conductor, and has a real knack for selecting music that enhances our worship. Over the next few months, Bob and I, with the assistance of the Senior Choir, hope to introduce several new hymns from Voices United and More Voices to the congregation. There are some real gems in these hymnbooks that may become new congregational favourites!

Best wishes for the months ahead!

Amy Dalziel, Director of Music





Two years can seem like a long time. Yet, once time has passed it is easy to wonder where it went! Three years ago, the Christian Education Committee launched its Autumn programme without any idea that a few short months later we would be on hiatus. To stay connected with people during that time, we launched the CE Magazine "Faith: Some Assembly Required." We will continue to offer this periodical as a way to inspire and inform in our mandate for Christian education, though we are excited to meet in person once again.

On Sunday mornings, we invite our little ones to join us in the Sanctuary to participate in a fresh imagining of Children's Church. We welcome them in the service and we support their faith formation during an enhanced Children's Time. Faith in Action activity packs will be available in the Sanctuary for children and adults alike!

Sunday evenings at 7pm we will offer the EvenTide Service. Our small group program will gradually unfold over the coming season. Youth group and young adults, Bible study and pub theology, ukulele, sewing, pot luck & games night and more, we have something for everyone!

Please browse through our brochure in the bulletin or contact the church office for details. There are many paths to fellowship and worship. We welcome all ideas as we look to enhance our programme to serve you better. Whether you would like to join our committee or just engage in a particular project or activity, our doors are open and there is a seat at the table just waiting for you. Please join us!

Pamela Norman
Christian Education



FINANCES

St. James United Church

Comparative Income Statement

Month of January 1st to August 31st

	2022	2021
REVENUE		
Collections		
Envelopes	106,901	101,863
Other Envelopes	9,657	10,743
Rentals	11,473	7,196
Other	17,480	2,271
TOTAL REVENUE	145,511	122,073
EXPENSE		
Church		
Repairs and Maintenance	2,925	6,896
Heat	21,707	15,379
10 Paton	4,178	4,387
Light	3,699	2,951
Other Expenses	50,687	54,267
Total Church	83,196	83,880
Salaries and Allowances		
Ministers & Administration Salaries	91,901	52,991
Support Staff	10,532	10,083
Employee Benefits	21,115	8,812
Telephone	140	140
Total Salaries and Allowances	123,688	72,026
TOTAL EXPENSE	205,884	155,906
NET INCOME	-61,374	-33,833

Above is the income statement for January 1st to August 31st 2022 compared to 2021. You will notice that at the end of August 2021 we were carrying a \$33,833 deficit and for the same time in 2022 we are carrying a \$61,374 deficit, which is almost double of 2021. At the Annual Meeting in March 2022 the members in attendance approved a deficit budget of \$48,505.

You will notice that our revenue is up by \$23,000 over last year and that is due to rentals being back since COVID started, 10 Paton now has a tenant and the congregational givings through envelopes, PAR, special envelopes have increased. Our expenses on the other had have increased since 2021. Heating the church and extension has increased by \$6,000 and that is due to the increase cost in oil. The other increase is in Ministers and Administration Salaries. Rev. James joined us in August 2021 as our Full-time minister, so in the first 7 months in 2021, we had pulpit supply not a full-time minister. This is also why our benefits are higher.



UCW
united church women

Thoughts on St. James

*"I have become part of the community.
People pitch in and help each other."*

"It feels like home"

*"...the commitment to inclusion.
People have been so friendly."*

*"We enjoy the advocacy focus,
a strong call to action"*

*"I've always found it to be a warm,
welcoming place"*

This past year has been another difficult year for the church and the whole world with the continuation of Covid-19 and subsequent restrictions. We did not have a regular meeting until 2021. In the past our major fundraisers have been our Spring Tea and our Fall Sale and Morning Coffee. At our last meeting on April 11, 2022, before summer break, we tentatively planned to go ahead with the Fall Sale. Since many mandatory restrictions have been lifted, we are happy to announce that this event will be held this fall at St. James United Church Auditorium on Saturday, November 5, 2022, 9:45- 12 noon. Cost: \$8:00.

For further information you may contact co-conveners Barbara Butt or Sheilah Beckett. We look forward to seeing you there.





STEWARDSHIP

give thanks, invite, inspire

Inspired by our training in June, our Stewardship Committee is revving up with our post-pandemic planning. We are enthusiastic about 2022-23.

This autumn, we are planning and implementing a large, multi-part stewardship campaign based on the U.C.'s "Called to be the Church" program where we show our appreciation to you, our members, and invite you and others to participate in various activities at St. James. We hope to inspire you to act; to serve in our community.

Following Jesus' open-minded and inclusive example, we need your help to rebuild St. James' congregation and financial operational status. Please invite people of all ages and backgrounds to come be a part of St. James' social community by participating in our church's diverse activities.

Our campaign will have three components: financial, community and environmental. We are focused on building a community that will tend to everyone's needs – from the youngest to the most senior members of St James.

Our first event this season, "Welcome Back" Sunday service and lunch on September 25, got us off to an enjoyable start. There was a good turn-out by our congregation. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Robin Bartlett, Stewardship Chair



You're Invited!

Diversity
FAIR
OCTOBER 16

**Come and meet
groups which are
working to create
a more just and
inclusive
St. John's.
12 - 2 PM**





EVENTIDE

worship that shifts like the moon

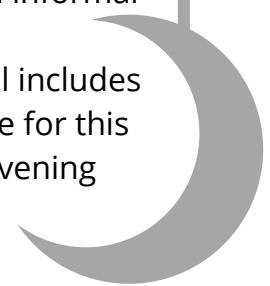
There was a time when United Church congregations regularly had worship services on Sunday evenings as well as in the morning. This Fall we thought we would bring this tradition back, but with a twist. We are launching a new time and day for our “contemporary” worship service and also introducing three new expressions of worship, all of which will rotate through the month.

Why are we doing this? This evolution of our second Sunday worship service arose in part from our annual fall review of programming, looking at what’s been working (and hasn’t) as well as discerning what new ideas we’d like to try. This year there were three needs at play. First, the question of whether or not we go back to Saturday services. Second, a desire to restart youth activities after a long COVID break. Third, the need to respond to a request from young adults for a monthly service geared toward the student population in the neighbourhood.

The result of this is what we’re calling EvenTide, a rotating worship experience reflective of the following:

Contemporary Worship: Generally on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, Susan will lead a worship service at 7 pm similar to what she’s been leading, be it 9 am on a Sunday or on a Saturday at 4:30 pm.

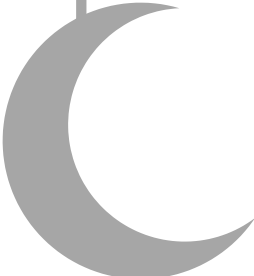
The Sunday Table: This 6:00 pm service held on the 2nd Sunday of the month (except in October because of Thanksgiving) is based on “Dinner Church”, an informal worship style centred around a shared meal. Rather than a formal sermon, participants reflect together in small groups with starter questions. The meal includes communion, albeit structured differently than on Sunday mornings. The time for this service is an hour earlier than other weeks not just because it includes the evening meal but because it leads into our monthly youth group evenings.



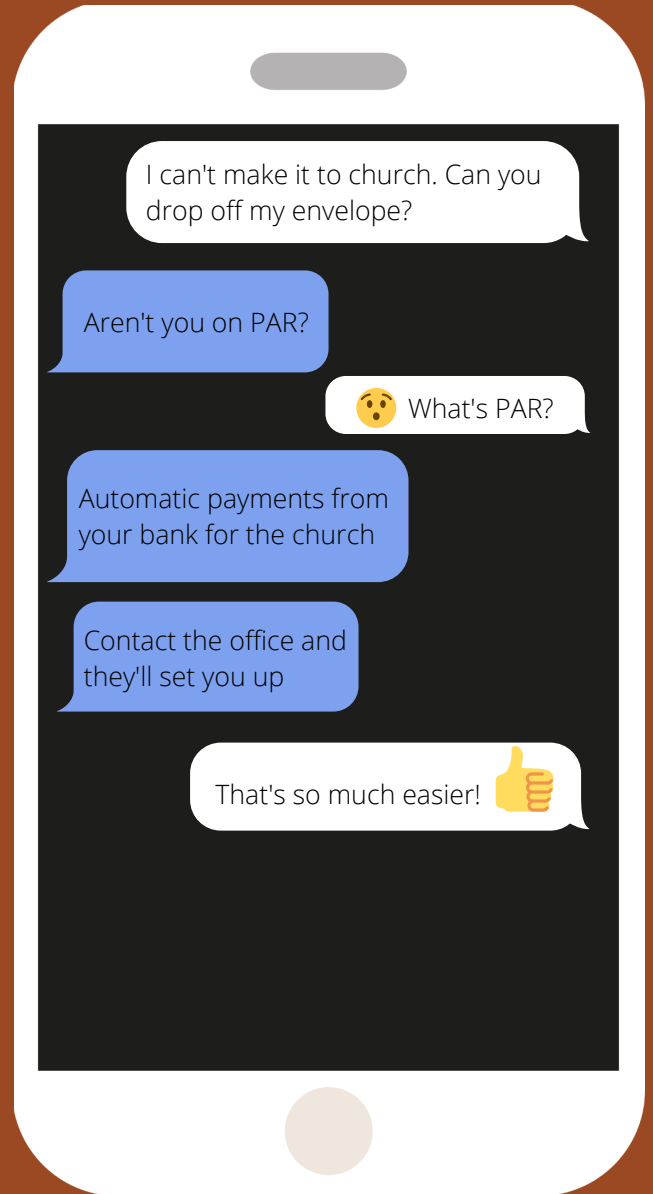
EVENTIDE

Tapestry: Open to all ages, this 7 pm worship held on the fourth Sunday of the month is focused on the age group for which we once facilitated “college and career” groups, that is adults under the age of 35. Given our proximity to MUN and CNA, and with that, the number of international students who live in the area, this service celebrates the experiences, identities, cultures and faiths that shape our spiritual lives.

TBA: Several times a year, we have five Sundays, giving us an extra day to celebrate. We are exploring a number of possibilities for this service, including Taizé prayer, Jazz Vespers and an old time Methodist evening service. We will keep everyone informed as we finalize what these “extra” Sundays look like.



So welcome to EvenTide, a worship service that shifts like the moon, a variety of worship expressions to nurture our spirits, nurture relationships and help us reach out to our neighbours and the wider community.



A dependable flow of contributions helps keep the church, and most importantly the good work the church does, on financially stable ground. Sign up for PAR today!

A O T S *as ones that serve*

Greetings from the St. James Men's Club

As noted in my report in the Easter Visitor, the St. James Men's Club, like other St. James groups and organizations, has faced many challenges since the beginning of the pandemic. We were not able to meet as a group and the fellowship associated with our many activities throughout the church year were terribly missed. Gone as well during that period were our Club's regular pastoral visits to the Pleasant View Seniors Complex, our spring and fall fish dinners, our regular monthly dinner meetings, our 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 passed away during that period. 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.

During the spring, pandemic mandates were lifted somewhat and we were able to commence our meetings during March, April and May, albeit at a different time of day. We decided to try a mid-day luncheon format and settled on 12:30 gathering for a 1:00 pm lunch. This format seemed agreeable to all and we now plan to resume our lunch meetings on September 21.

Contact has been initiated with Eastern Health in the hope that we could resume our monthly church services for the residents of the East Wing of Pleasant View Towers. Our practice had been to gather at 1:30 and assist in transporting interested residents to the chapel for our church service. I have since been informed that these church services will continue to be conducted by the PVT chaplaincy team as they were throughout the pandemic.

As we get back to our normal routine, we look forward to re-instating our fund-raising activities as well as our participation in church services. We are hopeful that other members of our congregation will come out and join in our activities. Fellowship is needed and appreciated during these trying times.

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 Men's Club over the coming years. Together we can find many ways to reach out and offer assistance to our community.

Clyde Flight, President



COOK with kids

LEAF PILE SANDWICH

The days are getting cooler and the trees have started to fade. Make this fun snack for the kids so they can play in the leaves at home.

Supplies for this Fall themed leaf activity are simple:

- Leaf shaped cookie cutters in several sizes
- Bread
- Cheese slices
- Luncheon meat
- Spinach

Tip: Use your largest cookie cutter for the bread and the smaller ones for the other ingredients.

Directions

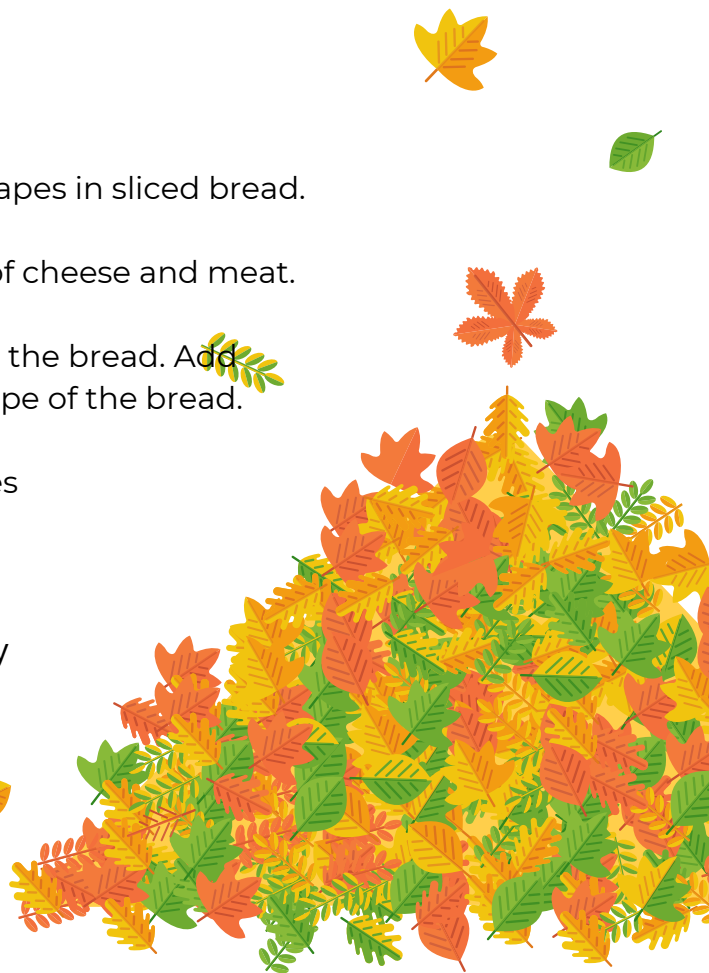
Step 1 Use large leaf cutter to cut out two leaf shapes in sliced bread.

Step 2 Use smaller leaf cutter to cut out slices of cheese and meat.

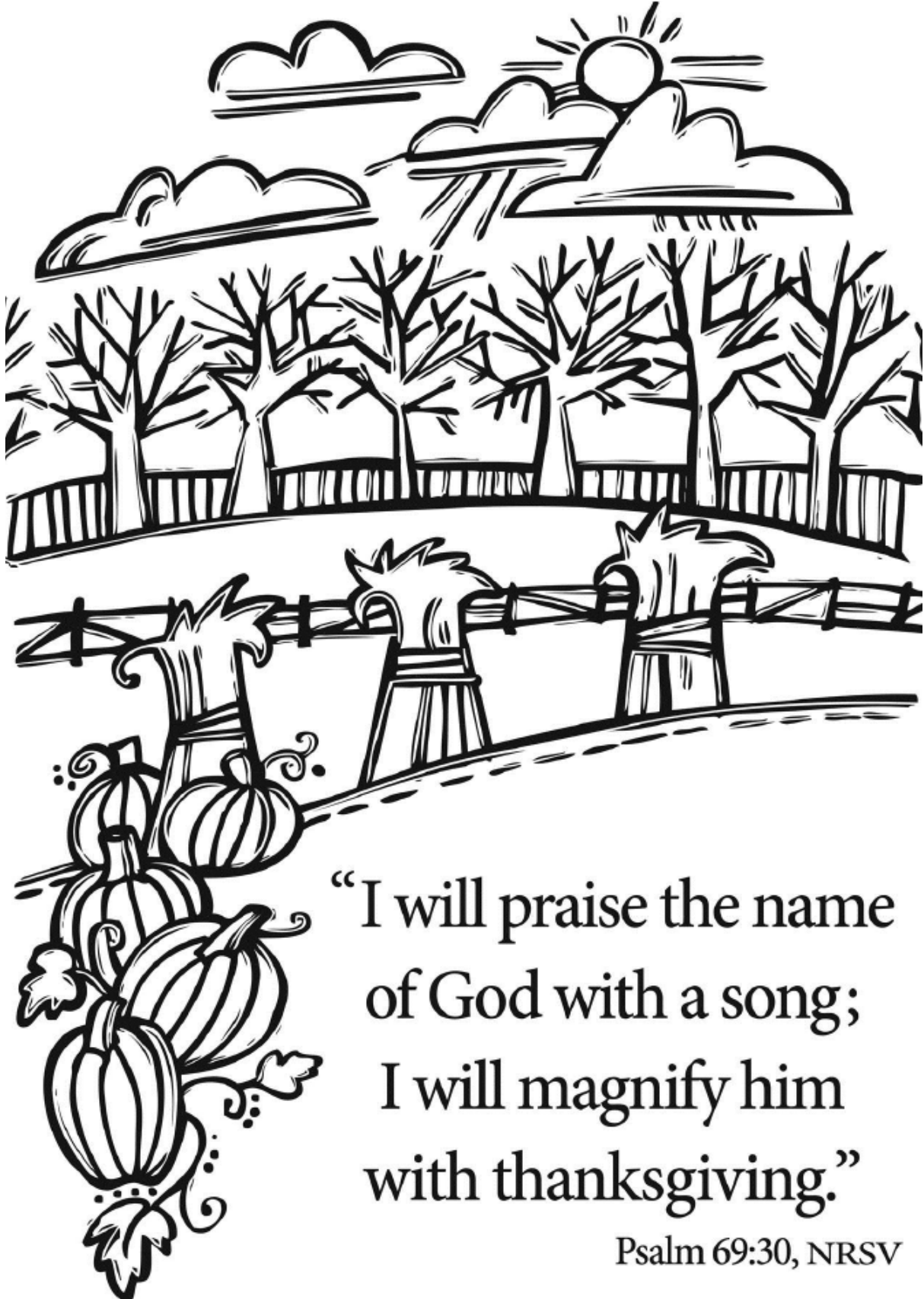
Step 3 "Pile" the meat and cheese leaf shapes on the bread. Add spinach leaves. Cover with another large leaf shape of the bread.

- Alternately you just have a salad of leaf shapes with various greens thrown in.

You can talk to your children about the colours they notice represented in the snack: yellow/orange, green, brown, and pale pink. The green leaves on trees now will soon give way to the other colours.



Colouring Page



“I will praise the name
of God with a song;
I will magnify him
with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 69:30, NRSV

Mark your calendars!

DATE	TIME	LITURGICAL DAY	WORSHIP LEADERSHIP	MUSIC LEADERSHIP	SPECIAL INFO
Sept 18	11:00 am	Creation 3	James	Senior Choir	
	7:00 pm	Creation 3	Susan		Contemp. Service
Sept 25	11:00 am	Welcome Sunday	James	Contemporary Ensemble	Luncheon and info booths afterwards
	7:00 pm	Creation 4	Susan		Contemp. Service
Oct 2	11:00 am	Orange Shirt Sunday	James	Senior Choir	World Communion
	7:00 pm	As above	Susan		Contemp. Service
Oct 9	11:00 am	Thanksgiving Sunday	James	Senior Choir	
No	evening	service this	week		
Oct 16	11:00 am	19 th Sunday after Pentecost	James	TBA	Diversity Fair
	6:00 pm	Supper Church	James		Youth group at 7
Oct 23	11:00 am	20 th Sunday after Pentecost	Social & Eco Action Team	Senior Choir	Guaranteed Living Income Sunday
	7:00 pm	As above	Susan		Contemp. Service
Oct 30	11:00 am	Reformation/ All Saints Sun.	James	Contemporary Ensemble / Soloist	Possible baptism
	7:00 pm	Yet to be Named Service	James		Young adult focused worship
Nov 6	11:00 am	Remembrance Sunday	James	Senior Choir	Communion
	7:00 pm	As above	Susan		Contemp. Service
Nov 13	11:00 am		Susan	Senior Choir	Portugal Cove pulpit swap
	6:00 pm	Supper Church	James		Youth Group at 7
Nov 20	11:00 am	Reign of Christ Sunday	James + guest preacher	TBA	Anniversary Sunday
	7:00 pm	As above	Susan		Contemp. Service

