

Condolences to Sylvia Snelgrove on the passing of her sister-in-law, Elizabeth Oliver on Feb 17, 2024. Funeral service from Carnell's on Friday Feb 23, 2024.

We accept the following donation to the Memorial Fund:

* In memory of Harvey Weir from Michael and Suzann Tierney

NOTICE: St James United Church Annual Congregation Meeting will be held Sunday, March 17 at noon in the Sanctuary. Refreshments will be provided.

Contribution Statements: The 2023 contribution statements have gone out in the mail. If you have not received yours by the end of February, please let the office know.

Snow/Rain Delay: Wild light Spiritual Oasis that was set to take place this afternoon February 25th has been delayed until March 3rd.

Eventide Worship: There is no Eventide Worship this evening. Next Sunday will be Taizé Prayer. Taizé is based on the prayer tradition of the interchurch monastery in Taizé, France that is frequented by young people from all over the world, this reflective service uses chants, readings and periods of silence. The music is sung in many languages, repeating simple phrases from the Psalms and other Bible readings.

Reflective Thursdays at 12:30: Each Thursday throughout Lent, (Rev.) James will lead an informal communion service in the Fellowship Room. Communion is at 12:30PM, followed by the sharing of lunch. Bring a bag lunch if you wish and have lunch together!

Make Your Lent Green: This year we are using a green lens as we explore the readings for each Sunday in Lent. Why not make your whole Lent green? One way to do this is to follow the suggestions by A Rocha, a Christian environmental organisation started in the UK. Here is a link to their UK website: <https://arocha.org.uk/go-green-for-lent/>

Reflecting this Week: Each week we are reflecting on an element of creation as we consider the gift of our relationships, including with nature. This week you are invited to consider the element of water. In Isaiah 44, we read how water is sacred, a gift from God that brings forth life. As Christians we honour this spiritually when we use water in the sacrament of baptism. Water is a blessing not only for us but also in its own right, and so it needs to be respected. This is a far cry from how water is viewed in much of the Global North, treated as a commodity to be traded, a resource for agriculture, or a material for use in industry and discarded once it is polluted. We may live in a water-rich world, but only 3 percent of the world's water is fresh rather than salty, and only 1 percent is easily accessible. Beyond this, saltwater is threatened by plastics, and sea life is adversely impacted. Ultimately, water is a finite gift that needs protecting, a sacred source for all of life.

Ask yourself: Do you view water as sacred? In what ways? In Isaiah water is also a symbol of blessing. In what ways is that true for you? How far would you go to protect your own local water source?

A Spiritual Practice: Try to avoid drinking any water (or other beverage) for a day this week. If 11-12 hours is too long, set a timeframe that pushes you without risking your health. Whenever you feel thirsty through the day, pause to pray, perhaps reciting the first verse of Psalm 63: “O God, you are my God; I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.” As you pray, let your heart expand beyond your needs to consider those who do not have access to clean drinking water, people whose water is threatened by industry or who are struggling with drought, and sea life harmed by pollution. When you have your first drink of water at the end of your fasting period, savour your first sip. Consider its taste and how it feels on your tongue. Pause in appreciation and the need for all of us to look after this gift.

Looking for Friends: Are you a younger person and missing your Nan? Are you a bit older and would appreciate a surrogate uncle or sibling? Then look no further. We are looking to connect some of our more senior members with people who will give them a call, stop by for a visit, be a friend. If this interests you, contact Stephanie at info@stjamesuc.org.

Looking for Photos: Calling all photographers. We are looking for photographs that we can include as the front cover of future bulletins. Feel free to submit your photos of nature, still-life arrangements, seasonal celebrations and the like. Avoid photographs of people. We would need their permission to publish their likeness.

Worship Leadership Training: Have you ever wondered about why we worship as we do or been curious about how a worship service is put together? Have you considered helping lead a worship service or helped in one in the past and want to hone your skills? Then come take part in a four-week worship leadership course when you will learn about worship, what makes up a service, how to write a prayer and even how to prepare a sermon. The sessions will be from 1 to 4:30 pm on the Saturdays of Lent (Feb. 24, March 2, 9 and 16). For more information, contact Rev. James at james@stjamesuc.org

Volunteer Opportunity: Are you someone who tries to make sure everyone is included? Do you believe strongly in St. James as a congregation where people of all identities, backgrounds, sexualities, and experiences belong? Then you should consider joining our Diversity Committee. Please contact Paul Walsh at jpaulwalsh1209@yahoo.com

Purdy's Chocolates: St. James invites you to celebrate easter with delicious Purdy's Chocolates! At the same time, you'll be helping our congregation achieve its financial goals. The order deadline is: Wednesday, March 6, 2024. You can pick up your order at the church on Saturday, March 30, 2024.

To order some chocolates, You can use this link:

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/1570516-117000> and it will take you to a page where

you enter your email. Once you have done that, click the "Join a campaign" button and it will take you to our St. James page. In the top right corner, you will see three horizontal lines (that is the symbol for menu on a website). Click on it and scroll down to "shop online". Clicking on that will take you to a page where you can choose between "the marketplace" (so you can see pictures and read descriptions) or the online form. Let us know if you need help with any of this and we will order on your behalf.

Teachers on Wheels will be holding a tutor-training workshop on Saturday, February 10th. If you can read, you can tutor! Call Tom Dawe for details at (709) 738-3975. www.teachersonwheels.ca. St. James Outreach and Action Committee is discerning a future initiative of offering ESL/EFL classes (English as a second or foreign language conversation classes). This is an awesome opportunity to train for that!

Bridges to Hope: For 2024, Bridges to Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month. Of course, this item, and other non-perishable food items, can be given any other Sunday as well. These items are staples in the food hampers distributed and will go a long way to ensuring that hampers can be filled.

The item for FEBRUARY is Juice - 1 Litre. Thank you for your support!

The 5th annual L'Arche Avalon online auction is set for February 23rd to 28th. Don't forget to visit our Facebook Page - L'Arche Avalon Online Auction - to take part! All proceeds are directed at building dignified accommodations for our community. So many terrific items! So many deals!! It all starts February 23rd!. Don't miss out!!

Want to donate online this morning?

Scan this QR code with your phone and it will take you to our website. Then click "Donate". Thank you for your support.

