

Condolences to Jennie Burry and family, on the passing of her husband Peter on March 9th. Peter was also the father of Keith Burry and Heather Cutler. There will be a private family burial at a later date.

We gratefully accept the following donation to the Memorial Fund:

- * In Loving Memory of my Husband, from Sheila Wedgewood.
- * In memory of Mae Wilson from the UCW
- * In memory of Harvey Weir from Irwin and Marilyn Rees

We gratefully accept the following donation to the Memorial Fund:

- * In memory of Harvey Weir from the Guitar Group

NOTICE: St James United Church Annual Congregation Meeting will be held TODAY, Sunday, March 17 at noon in the Auditorium with a light lunch provided.

Current vacancies:

Vice Chair (Council)

Secretary (Council)

Chair (Trustees)

Chair (Finance)

Secretary (Christian Education Committee)

Regional Rep. (we have one representative and one back up but can have four)

Cemetery Rep

Christian Education, Stewardship and Diversity all need general members.

If you would like to join the meeting via Zoom, we have attached the Zoom link and information below:

Topic: Annual Congregational Meeting

Time: Mar 17, 2024 12:00 PM Newfoundland and Labrador

Join Zoom Meeting by using this information below:

Meeting ID: 825 6762 8499

Passcode: 003488

AOTS Men's Club: The regular monthly meeting of the men's club will be held on March 20 with dinner served at 1:00 pm. New members are always welcome.

Easter Sunday Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt - March 31: Once again the AOTS Men's Club will be hosting Breakfast Downstairs, Eggs, Toast, Jam, Juice, Tea and Coffee. Come for breakfast starting at 9:30 am. Enjoy your Breakfast before going upstairs for the Easter Sunday Service at 11:00 am. There will be a free will offering. In the Sanctuary there will be an Easter egg hunt for the young and the young at heart.

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!

To Ponder:

Do you remember Dr. Dolittle? I was envious when I watched Rex Harrison portray John Dolittle in the 1967 film. I thought, “I may not have a macaw, but my gerbil and I would have lots to talk about.” As I look back, I realize my desire was more than childhood fancy. It was rooted in a feeling that humans and animals are not fundamentally different. I learned in Sunday school how humans were created in God’s image and likeness, but without reference to how animals and humans were created on the same day. This suggests to me that we are different in degree, not in kind, a truth that is verified not just in Genesis 1 but also in the biological sciences. Yes, we are made in the image of God, but this teaching reminds us how we are called to use our spiritual capacity as caregivers with God of other animals as well as our whole ecosystem. So many people consider humans, the last to be created, as superior to the rest of the natural world, but there as Robin Wall Kimmerer notes in *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*, the Ojibway legend of Nanabozho suggests the opposite. When this proto-human first appears on a fully formed Earth, they realize that as the last “creature” to arrive, they have the least knowledge about how to live in their environment. Like Nanabozho, we need to learn from our older animal and plant siblings, taking time to listen to them. Perhaps we can be Dr. Doolittle after all.

- If you could talk to the animals, what would you want to learn from them?
- Does considering humans as the youngest species change how you look at the Creation story? What impact does that have for you?

Spiritual Practise:

If you are able, go for a meditative walk outside (or look out the window). It does not matter where you go or for how long, but walk with open attentiveness to your surroundings, especially to all of the creatures you see and hear along the way, be it a bird, a cat, an insect, or another human. If you prefer, sit outside with the same attentiveness. Pause with gratitude for all of the animal siblings that you met. If you can, walk the same route or sit in the same spot for a number of days, perhaps weeks. Note how this shifts your attentiveness.

Support our Music Program Challenge: The congregation has been challenged by one of our regular financial givers to raise money dedicated to our music program at St. James. They will match donations to a total of \$500.00. They encourage other members to consider a special contribution to support the music enjoyed during our services. Council is currently considering the budget for 2024 and special contributions, in addition to your regular annual financial gift, will help considerably in this process. Please make a donation to this worthy cause and identify it as “Music Program Challenge”. Let’s watch the total grow as we record it weekly.

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. We are looking for 6 people. If this interests you, contact Stephanie at info@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

UCW Spring Tea:

St. James United Church
330 Elizabeth Avenue



Time: 2 – 4 pm Cost: \$8.00

Co-Conveners: Barbara Butt: (709) 687-1041
Sheilah Beckett: (709) 726-7421

Tickets: May be purchased at the door. Please contact the church office for more information.

Social Action and Outreach Group to provide meals to people that are housing insecure: St. James has been asked to join other churches and community groups to provide a hot meal once a day, in rotation, to the five homeless people who remain in the encampment in Bannerman Park. They've hardly had a hot meal this year! **We will need volunteers** to buy meals, or to prepare meals in our church's kitchen. We also need **donations of money and groceries**. Processes will be worked out according to our resources. If you can help in any way, please contact the church office at: info@stjamesuc.org or (709) 722-1881 ext. 200



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.