



**St. James United Church**



Belong • Grow • Serve

330 Elizabeth Ave,  
St. John's, NL, A1B 1T9

## **Celebration of Worship: February 1, 2026**



The people of St. James United Church are eternal seekers who value diversity within our congregation, our city, and all of society. We affirm each person's uniqueness and believe that all persons deserve to be valued, treated with equity, and respected. We are all children of God, walking many paths of spirituality.

Further, we proudly and publicly declare our commitment to practice radical hospitality and strive in every way to provide a safe and supportive place for all persons to participate in the worship and work of our church.

Guided by the teachings of Jesus, we embrace all persons, regardless of creed, race, age, ability, economic status, cultural and ethnic background, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or any other difference that has led to marginalization or oppression.

**February 1, 2026, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**  
(and remembering the Presentation of the Lord)

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Riley Ford, Owen Sinyard,  
Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose, Senior Choir  
Ushers: Damien Betts, Barbara Butt, Marilyn Adams,  
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

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*Please rise as you are able where there is an \* in the service.  
Print in **bold** indicates that the portion is read or sung by everyone.*

**We Come to Worship**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME; LAND AND KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*We share greetings in Mi'kmawi'simk, French and Igbo as we give thanks for the land and commit ourselves to be a truly inclusive community.*

**SHARING OF PEACE**

**INTROIT:** "Build a Longer Table" (*Then Let Us Sing 22, v. 1 and 4*)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*adapted from Psalm 84*)

How wonderful it is to be in a dwelling place for God!

**Our hearts rejoice to gather here and sing God's praise!**

There is a place here for everyone. No one is turned away.

**Everyone is free to draw near and share at God's holy table.**

Praise God who invites us in and shelters us all.

**Praise God who then sends us into the world to serve in love.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

God of steadfast love,

**we praise you for calling us into your holy dwelling,  
thankful for your gracious welcome of every people.**

**We have been redeemed in the dawning light of your Son,  
and called to share with others the healing gift of your grace.**

**Make us then his instruments, vessels of his light,  
that all the world may glory in the splendour of your peace.**

**We pray in the name of Christ, your light to the world. Amen.**

**\*HYMN:** “A Light Is Gleaming” (*Voices United 82*)

### **We Share in Love**

**OUR LIFE AND WORK:** *We share about upcoming events and other items of interest to the congregation and to the wider community.*

**OFFERTORY:** *There are many ways to give to St. James. You can place an offering in the plate, scan the QR code on the left, contribute via PAR, website ([www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)), e-transfer (email [treasurer@stjamesuc.org](mailto:treasurer@stjamesuc.org)), mail to the church office or drop in our secure mailbox. In whatever way you choose to give, the community is grateful.*



**\* HYMN:** “When Heaven’s Bright with Mystery” (*VU 93, v. 4*)  
**When heaven’s bright with mystery and stars still lead an unknown way,  
when love still lights a gentle path where courts  
of power can hold no sway, there with the Magi, let us kneel,  
our gifts to share, God’s world to heal.**

### **PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND GRACE**

#### **We Listen and Respond**

**\*HYMN:** “Take, O Take me As I Am” (*More Voices 85*)

**READINGS:** *At the end of each reading please say, “Thanks be to God.”*  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31 and Matthew 5:1-12

**ANTHEM:** “When You Break the Bread” (*Ruth Elaine Schram*)

**READINGS:** *At the end of each reading please say, “Thanks be to God.”*  
Malcolm Guite, “A Sonnet for Candlemas”

### **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS**

**\*HYMN:** “O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts” (*Voices United 472*)

### **WELCOMING ALL TO THE TABLE**

Jesus came into the world, shining with God’s generous light.  
**He welcomes us to share in this meal so we too can shine.**

## THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Holy One is here. **God's Spirit is with us.**

Open your hearts. **We open them to God.**

Let us give thanks. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Holy God. In you the heavens are joyful and earth is glad. We thank you for speaking the universe into being with the words, "Let there be light," for continuing to share the light of your wisdom through prophets and sages, for sending your Son to the world to embody that light and love to all nations.

Begotten of you, he burns bright in your divinity;

**born of Mary, he comes that we may shine in your love.**

Heralded by a star, he is proclaimed to be a light to all peoples;

**teaching on a hillside, he affirmed everyone as light of the world.**

With thanksgiving for all that he revealed in his coming among us, we join our voices in the angels' song of praise:

**O holy, holy, holy Lord, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creations sing your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always. (MV 203)**

Saving God, as we gather at this table, we give thanks for Jesus. We give thanks for the many ways his life shone with your life,

for all the ways that his love revealed the fullness of your love.

Jesus embodied this love when on the night before he died, he gathered at table with his friends.

There he took bread, blessed, broke and gave it to them saying, "Take, eat. This is my body given for you."

After the meal he took some wine, blessed it and gave it to them saying, "Take, drink. This is the cup of the new covenant, sealed in my life's blood.

Whenever you do this, remember me."

In grateful memory, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again! (x2) (More Voices 204)**

Be with us through your Spirit, Loving God, making known to us the presence of Christ within us and through this holy meal.

**Make us one with him and all who share this feast, that we be united in faith, encouraged with hope, inspired to love.**

May we share his mission of restoration in the world, revealing his goodness as we serve you faithfully until we share in your glory.

We praise you, Living God, through Christ your light,  
in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen, amen, O Holy one! Hosanna and Amen! (x2) (MV 205)**

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS** (*Voices United*, p. 921)

## **SHARING COMMUNION**

This is the bread of life, **broken to give life to the world.**

This the fruit of the vine, **love poured out that all may truly live.**

This is the banquet of blessing, **Christ among us in our sharing.**

*There is a station for bread and side stations with juice in small glasses.*

*Consume both before returning to your seat. If you are unable to come forward to share communion, someone will bring it to you once everyone who wishes to has already received. If you would prefer a blessing, come forward with arms crossed over your chest as a sign of that request. The choir will sing "For Everyone Born" (Then Let us Sing 23)*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)**

**We give thanks, loving God that you have called us to your table and thus nurtured us as disciples of Jesus, your light.**

**Let him continually shine in us that our lives reflect his love, and our communities reveal his goodness for all to see.**

**In Jesus' holy name, we pray. Amen.**

## **We Leave to Serve**

**\*HYMN:** "Be thou My Vision" (*Voices United* 642)

## **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

As we go forth from here:

**may we be strong in spirit, courageous in will,  
and gentle of heart.**

Each day may our actions:

**be rooted in wisdom, nurtured by hope and open to love.**

May we meet others as we would wish to be met:

**with a heart of compassion, in a spirit of healing  
and grounded in joy.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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All worship services at St. James are Live Streamed via video for our online congregation. By participating in this service, you acknowledge that you may be visible on live broadcast or archived video. If you are uncomfortable about the possibility of appearing on video, please speak to an usher who can seat you in an area not visible on camera. All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced/ broadcast under ONE LICENSE.

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### **St. James United Church**

Chair of the Church Board:	Pamela Norman
Minister:	Rev. James Ravenscroft
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Co-Directors of Music:	Amy Dalziel & Bob Rose
Office Administrator	Stephanie Harnum
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

Office: 1-709-722-1881, x200; Email: [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org);  
Emergency Cellphone: 1-709-351-0983; Website: [www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)



@StJamesUCNL



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WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

## Life and Work – February 1, 2026

**We offer our sincere condolences to** the family of Brenda Butt who passed away on January 27, 2026. Resting at Carnell's Funeral Home. Visitation is on Friday January 30th from 11:00AM -2:00PM and 3:00PM - 9:00PM. Service will be at Carnell's Chapel on January 31st at 11:00AM. With committal following at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

**We offer our sincere condolences to** the family of Violet Hutchings who Passed peacefully away at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital on January 15, 2026 aged 93 years. The memorial service was held at Barrett's Chapel.

**2026 Envelopes:** If you have not already received your 2026 envelopes, they are ready at the church for pick-up. Please drop by Tuesday to Friday from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm and pick them up or ask a member of the congregation to pick them up for you.

### **Lent is coming: Consider taking up a spiritual practice!**

1. Meditation: Each Wednesday, 5:45-6:30 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm). Come each week for a time of quiet meditation in the Christian tradition. Don't worry if you've never practiced Christian meditation. Rev. James will teach you how.
2. Bible Study: Each Sunday after coffee time, Rev. James leads a bible study. This is a chance to explore the readings heard in worship in more detail.
3. Fasting: Fasting is one of Christianity's oldest practices. Choose one day during the week to eat less. You could choose to refrain from eating during the daylight hours, opt to go without meat, or some other practice. As you feel hungry for food, you turn to God who is the only one who truly satisfies.
4. Almsgiving: Another ancient practice is giving alms, setting extra money aside to help others by supporting the church or another charity. Perhaps join fasting and almsgiving together. Sacrifice a purchased coffee (or some other treat) each day and give the proceeds to help others.

**Wild Light Spiritual Oasis:** Please note the date change to February 1, 2026 at 3:00pm. Join us for a walk to connect to our inner creativity. We will meet at the shelter adjacent to the Fluvarium parking lot.

**Taizé Prayer Service:** Wednesday (February 4) at 6:30pm. A time of readings, singing and silent reflection.

**Readers Required:** If anyone is interested in helping out during Sunday worship services by doing readings, please see the sign up sheet in the vestibule or please contact Barry Cutler at (709) 685-9030 or by email at [newfie\\_1\\_ca@yahoo.ca](mailto:newfie_1_ca@yahoo.ca). Thank you

**HURRY & GET YOUR TICKETS FOR SHIFT HAPPENS, MUSICAL COMEDY!**

**Deadline to get your tickets: February 12, 2026**

**Buckle up for a joyride down memory lane with Spirit of Newfoundland's latest musical comedy, "Shift Happens...at 100 Smiles per Hour"! On February 26, 2026, Gower Theatre doors open at 6:30 p.m.**

🍷 Dinner, Show, and Non-Stop Entertainment – All for just \$120 per person! 🍷 **(Remember that you will get a \$50 tax receipt!!)**

This is your chance to grab your spot for an unforgettable night filled with laughter, community, and music!

Bypass the downtown parking, park at St. James and avail of our taxi service to Gower St UC. Please enquire about our childcare availability. Dietary considerations available upon request. Tax receipts (\$50.00 per ticket) will be issued for the charitable portion of the ticket.

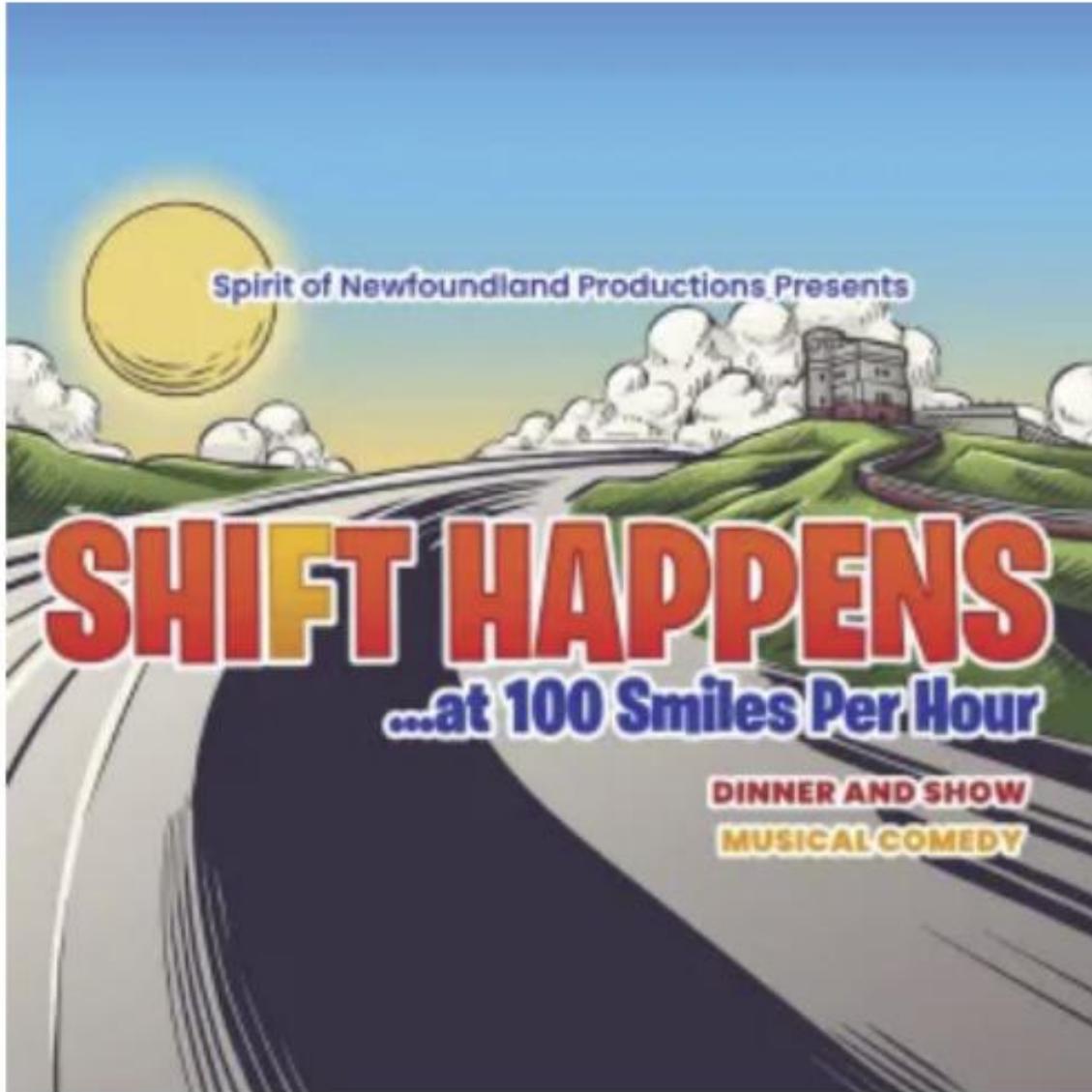
Tickets are selling fast. Get yours today by contacting the St. James church office by phone or email at [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org) or 722-1881. Payment is due at the time of purchase via cheque, e-transfer, or cash. Deadline to get your tickets is February 12, 2026. Tickets are NOT available at the door.

🤝 Hosted by Gower Street United Church, St. James United Church, and Cowan Heights United Church, proceeds will be shared between the three churches in support of their ministries.

**JOIN**



**AT SPIRIT OF NEWFOUNDLAND FOR**



**FEB 26**  
**7:00 PM**

**A THREE-COURSE DINNER THEATRE**  
**GOWER THEATER , 208 GOWER STREET**  
**TICKETS \$120**  
**PLEASE PURCHASE IN ADVANCE**  
**(709) 722-1881 - INFO@STJAMESUC.ORG**

**Tapestry:** Saturday, February 14 @ 5:30PM. Beginning with a potluck at 5:30 pm, this service celebrates the strands that make us who we are in terms of faith, experience, and identity.

**Bring in Palm Fronds:** In preparation for Ash Wednesday (on February 18), please bring in palm fronds from last year (or earlier). They are burned and then the ash is used for the custom of having a cross traced in ash on your forehead.

**Ash Wednesday Service:** Wednesday, February 18th at 6:30PM. There will also be a chance to receive ashes at the end of the worship service on February 18

**Pancake Supper:** will be held on Tuesday, February 17 at 6pm. Come enjoy all the favourites; pancakes, berries, beans and sausages, coffee, tea and juice for just \$12 per person. Tickets are available for purchase from Aubrey Hill at (709) 726-8306 or Clyde Flight at (709) 722-9935. Tickets must be purchased in advance.



## St. James United Church Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 17, 2026  
6 p.m.

Adults	\$12.00
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**St. James Fundraising Group:** We have a Valentines Basket currently on tickets. \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Draw date is February 12<sup>th</sup>. See Barbara Butt for tickets. Valued at \$200. Tickets will be sold after worship in Fellowship Room.

**Save the Date!** The UCW will be hosting **our annual *Spring Tea and Bake Sale*** on Saturday, April 11th from 2pm - 4pm. Come and enjoy sandwiches, cookies and tea or coffee for \$10, get your baked goods and a chance to win a beautiful basket of items! As in previous years, we will be looking for help from members of the congregation and we will be reaching out soon. We know we can always count on our church family to support our fundraising efforts that are used to fund our church and outreach initiatives. If you would like to volunteer to help, please reach out to Betty Pilgrim or Donna Downey.

**St. James United Church St. Patrick's Day Concert:** Featuring Hamilton Sound & Bud Davidge on Sunday, March 15, 2026 from 2:00-3:30pm. Tickets are \$35.00 and can be purchased from the church office Tuesday to Friday between the hours of 8:30AM and 1:30PM. Please contact the church office for your ticket at [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org) or 709-722-1881. Please note that the church office will be closed at 1:30PM.



# St. Patrick's Day Concert

featuring

## Hamilton Sound & Bud Davidge

**Sunday, March 15, 2026 2:00 pm-3:30 pm**

### St. James United Church

330 Elizabeth Avenue

Tickets - \$35.00 Call 709.722.1881  
Office Hours Tuesdays-Fridays 8:30am to 1:30pm

