



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

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

Celebration of Worship: February 8, 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 8, 2026, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Riley Ford,
Bob Rose and the St. James Quartet
Ushers: Bill and Cindy Pike, Jean Thompson,
Marilyn Adams and Susan Pike

*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 Innu-aimun, French and Twi as we give thanks for the land and commit ourselves to be a truly inclusive community.

SHARING OF PEACE

INTROIT: “Jesus Bids Us Shine” (VU 585, v. 1 and 3)

CALL TO WORSHIP (*adapted from Psalm 112*)

Blessed are those who honour God and follow their way.

We honour God’s way as do our children and grandchildren.

God’s teaching is like the dawn arriving after a long, dark night.

It is the light of mercy, the dawn of compassion and justice.

Those who walk in this light have no need to be afraid.

We will walk in this light and so will never be shaken.

OPENING PRAYER

Perfect Light of revelation,

we give thanks for your grace, shining in the life of Jesus.

As he was attentive to the wisdom of your word,

open our hearts that we may be attentive too.

Through the gifting of your Spirit,

may we become your dawn, and enlighten the world

through your justice and mercy,

our deeds offered in Jesus, your revelation and light.

Amen.

***HYMN:** “Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom” (*More Voices* 10)

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), e-transfer (email 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

LEARNING TOGETHER

We explore themes of the day in a manner accessible to all ages.

***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 2:1-16 and Matthew 5:13-20

***HYMN:** “I Am the Light of the World” (*Voices United* 87)

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, “Thanks be to God.”*

“Alone” by Maya Angelou

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

ANTHEM: “Steal Away” (*African American Spiritual*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PRAYER OF JESUS (VU p. 918)

We Leave to Serve

***HYMN:** “He Leadeth Me” (*Voices United* 657)

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: *Please remain seated during the postlude*

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;
Emergency Cellphone: 1-709-351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



@StJamesUCNL



@stjamesuc

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

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. License #: #A-700000.

Life and Work – February 8, 2026

We offer our sincere condolences to the family of Joan Sheppard-Wells who passed away on Thursday, February 5, 2026. Arrangements are entrusted to Carnell's Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life is planned for a later date

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.

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!!)**

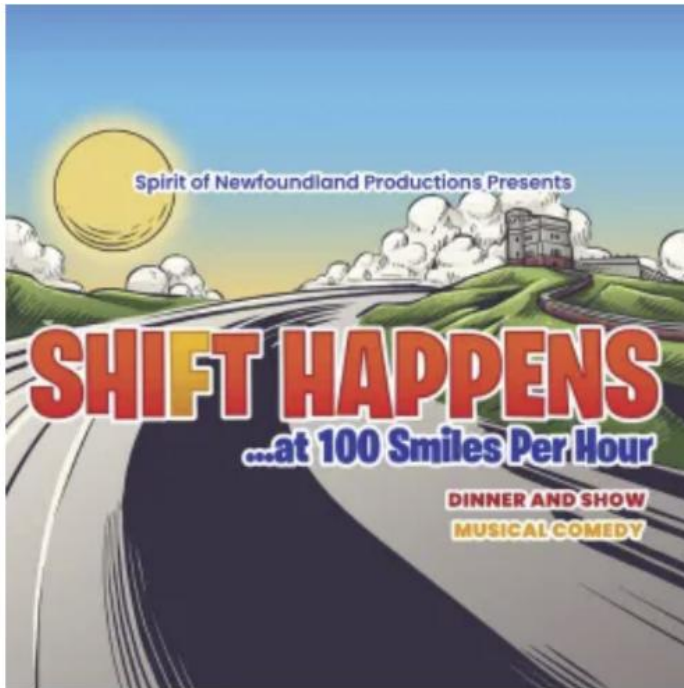
This is your chance to grab your spot for an unforgettable night filled with laughter, community, and music!

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 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.



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: will be delayed by a week. This month's Tapestry service will be held on February 21 rather than February 14. The gathering begins with a potluck at 5:30 followed by the service proper at 7:00 pm.

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. The Worship and Sacrament Committee would like to inform the congregation that we have donated the instruments we had in storage from the St. James Band and Project Grace to The Katie Sullivan Instrument Library. The Instrument Library operates as a community-supported resource that provides students with free access to musical instruments. The library is a central,

The **Worship and Sacrament Committee** would like to inform the congregation that we have donated the instruments we had in storage from the St. James Band and Project Grace to **The Katie Sullivan Instrument Library**. The Instrument Library operates as a community-supported resource that provides students with free access to musical instruments. The library is a central, community-supported resource where teachers can access **free** instruments for any student who requires one, ensuring every child can experience the joy and growth that come from participating in music education. Access is available to **ALL** schools. We felt that the instruments would be put to better use at the library, rather than have them sitting not being used. The library will also mark all instruments as being donated from St. James United Church. Please feel free to visit their website for further information instrumentlibrary.ca

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

Fellowship Luncheon: Sunday, February 15th. We are looking for donations of soup/casseroles, dinner rolls and sweets. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the vestibule, or you can reach out to Linda, Barbara, Catherine or Sheilah.

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

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 or 709-722-1881. Please note that the church office will be closed at 1:30PM.



The poster is for a St. Patrick's Day Concert. It features a black background with green shamrock vines at the top. The title "St. Patrick's Day Concert" is in a large, green, serif font. Below it, "featuring" is written in a small, white, cursive font. The band name "Hamilton Sound" is in a large, white, cursive font, and "& Bud Davidge" is in a smaller, green, serif font. A photograph of the band performing is in the center. The band consists of five men: a guitarist on the left, a drummer in the center, and three other musicians on the right. The drummer's drum has "Hamilton Sound" written on it. At the bottom, the date and time "Sunday, March 15, 2026 2:00 pm-3:30 pm" are in a green, serif font. Below that, "St. James United Church" is in a large, green, serif font, and "330 Elizabeth Avenue" is in a smaller, green, serif font. The ticket price "Tickets - \$35.00" and phone number "Call 709.722.1881" are in a green, serif font. The office hours "Office Hours Tuesdays-Fridays 8:30am to 1:30pm" are in a smaller, green, serif font. There are two circular logos at the bottom: one for "Hamilton Sound" on the left and one for "St. James United Church" on the right.

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

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. Thank you