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Our Mission as a congregation: *Love the Lord Your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy and love your neighbour as yourself. (Mark 12:19-21 MSG)*

September 22, 2024- Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *In the Garden* (C. Austin Miles)

Guitar Group

Welcome and Announcements

Introit (222 VU Come, Let Us Sing)

***Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.***

Call to Worship (responsive from Psalm 95:1, 2).

O come let us sing to God;

let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

let us joyously shout to God with songs of praise.

Prayer of Approach (responsive)

God of love, open our hearts-

That we may know your love for us.

God of wisdom, open our eyes-

That we may see your vision of justice and peace.

God of creation, open our hands-

That we may share your grace and hope with the world, Amen.

Hymn: 42 MV *Praise God for this Holy Ground*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 365 VU *Jesus Loves Me*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 1 (p, 724 VU)

First Lesson: . Jeremiah 11:18-20

Harley MacCaull

Epistle: James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a

Fred Davison

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Anthem: *The Servant Song* (Richard Gillard)

Sermon "The Greatest Disciple"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 593 VU *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With your Love*

Minute for Mission

Robert Smith

Offering (537 VU Your Work, O God)

***Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere
and some there are who cannot serve, unless our gifts we share.
Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make;
Be please to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.***

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 144 MV *Like A Healing Stream*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (222 VU Come, Let Us Sing)

***Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow***

Postlude: *Wayfaring Stranger* (Southern American Folk Hymn)

Guitar Group

A warm welcome to everyone joining us for worship. May this time help you draw to closer to God and your neighbour. We recognize that we gather in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People, and we seek to be good neighbours to the First Nations.

Greeting at the door this morning is Ida Sarty

Coffee Hosts this morning are Gerrit and Marlene Groenberg

Scripture for Next Sunday

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 • James 5:13-20 • Mark 9:38-50

Council Highlights

St. James United Church - September 17 2024

Welcome to Council Highlights! Below is information about what happened at the last St. James Church Council meeting. Council meets every other month from September to May and oversees the life and work of the congregation.

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The Worship Committee will be looking for people to help decorate the windows again this Thanksgiving. The sign up sheet will be available the last Sunday in September.

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The Finance and Stewardship Committee will be launching the fall appeal at the start of September to help us eliminate the financial shortfall we have entering the autumn. A letter will be sent to every family with details and an donation envelope.

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The UCW hosted a dinner at St. James for those taking part in the St. Ninian Pilgrimage Walk on September 14th and 15th. The dinner was greatly appreciated by all who attended. The Holly Tea and Sale will take place on November 16th.

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Outreach and Communication Committee are organizing a trip to the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre in October. More information will appear in the Sunday bulletin as we get closer.

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This fall is the 220th Anniversary for St. James United Church. Among the special events being planned are an Anniversary Service on October 27th, a congregation brunch or potluck, and an Anniversary/Memorial Hymn Sing that weekend. Watch the bulletin for more details.

Plans are also underway for special events to mark the 100th Anniversary of the United Church in June 2025.

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The next Council Meeting is on November 17th via Zoom.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, September 24

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program
3:00 pm Meditation Group resumes in the Parlour Contact Fran for more information 902 870-1198.

Thursday, September 26

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program
7:00 pm Choir practise

St James' Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up is happening! It is scheduled for 4:30, Wednesday, 25 September. Anyone 16 years and older is invited to join in. We will meet at the parking lot in Nova Landing across from Cleve's Sports Store, near our area, Hwy 7 and 104 – Exit 32. All equipment supplied. All you need is comfortable clothing appropriate to the weather, work gloves and waterproof footwear. Note tickets are active – plan to stay covered up! This should only take about two hours, beautifies our community and improves the environment. Treats and swag provided! Please talk to Michèle Ashby after the service or call her at 232-3473, if you are able to assist and have not already indicated your interest. Thanks!

Have some time on your hands? Looking for something to do? Your **Social Justice Collective** encourages you to consider **volunteering!** There are dozens of worthwhile organizations in Antigonish that could use *your* help. There's a good fit for everyone's interests and abilities. Several front line poverty fighting charities are listed in St James' "Antigonish Gift Book". Why not challenge yourself and try something new? "When in doubt, just take the next small step." ~ Paulo Coelho

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

The Social Justice Collective invites you to two hours of learning about the history of Palestine and Israel prior to and leading up to the start of the present hostilities and devastation on Gaza that began nearly one year ago. Called "the Palestine Land Exercise," the program is modeled on the KAIROS Blanket Exercise created to bring experiential knowledge to that history. Similarly, the PLE is an educational play in which the audience takes on the role of Palestinians to experience historical events and personal stories dating back to the late 19th century. There is no charge, but due to space limitations in the play, prior registration is

required. You may register by sending your name to jpwg2023@gmail.com ((Subject: for the PLE in Antigonish). The event is also a fundraiser to help a Canadian-Palestinian (Najlaa Alzaanin) bring her family, displaced multiple times, from Gaza to Nova Scotia. Date: Oct. 6. Lunch is offered from 12:00-12:30. The play runs from 12:30 to 2:30, followed by a five-minute presentation from Najlaa.

St James is a busy and active church not just on Sunday but through the week. As well as our church community there are exercise groups, girls guides, AA and other regular users of our building. So if you have a group or committee that is looking to meet please remember to contact the office to reserve your space.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Highland Quilt Guild of Antigonish presents "Stitched from the Heart 2024 Quilt Show" at St. James United Church on Friday September 27th from 10 am until 6pm and Saturday September 28th from 10 am to 4pm. Admission is \$5 and there is a silent auction and small handmade items for sale.

The 14th annual Blessing of the Pets Service will be held on Saturday, October 5th at 2:00 in the Garden of St Theresa on the former Bethany grounds. This beautiful service will be attended by clergy of various denominations, many lovely pets and happy pet owners. All are welcome! Pets must be leashed or crated. In case of inclement weather, the service will move to the hall at St James United Church – please use the back entrance.

Sunday Senior Show The Ships of 1801 is considering presenting their production "Home from the Boston States", as a special FREE performance for seniors and a guest . Show would be presented on Sept 29 th , 2pm at the Schwartz Auditorium on St F X Campus. However, we want to ensure that there is sufficient interest before we make a final decision. We ask that if you are interested in attending please call the church office 902 863-2001, by Monday 23 rd . A final decision by Tues noon announced on XFM and on The Ships of 1801 Facebook .

Stewardship Thought for this Sunday

Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others.- Augustine

