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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 29, 2024- Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *When Morning Gilds the Sky* Charlotte Adams

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 19:7-8).

The word of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes

Come, let us listen, learn, and rejoice as God's people.

Prayer of Approach (responsive)

God of wisdom, our world is filled with angry shouts, contrary opinions, and a desperate need for hope. Allow your Holy Spirit to touch our hearts with peace, allow our minds to be stirred through the reading of Holy Scripture, and let our lives be renewed as you call us to be your people through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Hymn: 28 MV *God of the Bible*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 583 VU *Jesus Came A Child Like Me*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 124 (p. 848)

First Lesson: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Joan MacGillivray

Epistle: James 5:13-20

Carol Burley

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50

Anthem: *Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord* (Benjamin Harlan) Choir

Sermon "What Really Matters"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 79 MV *Spirit, Open My Heart*

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 pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.*

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 664 VU *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*

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: *Draw the Circle Wide*

Charlotte Adams

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.

Are you interested in decorating a window for Thanksgiving Sunday?

The Worship Committee is looking for individuals and families to add to our Thanksgiving celebration. The sign up sheet is at the front door!

Coffee Hosts this morning are Paul and Sally Van De Wiel

Scripture for Next Sunday

Genesis 2:18-23 • Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 • Mark 10:13-16

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.

The prayers and Christian sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of *Albert Jennings* who died earlier this month. A family funeral is being planned for the summer. Please keep his nieces, nephews and all of the family in your thoughts and prayers.

The latest issue of Connections is at the door. Thanks to all the contributors and to Brenda Rose for editing the issue.

Please note the office will be closed on Monday, September 30th in observance of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The United Church bookstore is taking pre-orders for the 2025 United Church Calendars. The cost is \$10.00 per calendar. There are limited supplies so order early. Contact christine@betterbodiesbymassage.ca or 902-714-9463 if you would like to order.

Trash Talking - On Wed evening this week, St James' 18th Adopt-A-Highway clean up took place. We started these in 2012 and other than a COVID hiatus, have been conducting them twice yearly ever since. We have a core group who generally attend when possible, but it would be lovely to have a few new faces in the spring! 13 bags of garbage and two bags of "refundables" were cleaned off the #32 interchange area, greatly improving its appearance. Sincere thanks to Sara Avmaat, Erwin Buella, (McDonald's Manager), Hope Graham, Gerrit and Marlene Groenenberg, Tim Hinds, Liz Millet and Barb Shea for their continuing efforts year after year.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, October 1

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, October 3

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

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, October 6

10:30 am We gather to celebrate the Lord's Supper together.

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.

Tomorrow is the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. We owe it to each other to build a Canada based on our shared future; a future of healing and trust. This day coincides with **Orange Shirt Day**, which honours the survivors of residential schools and the many children who never returned home, as well as their families and communities. Wear orange in solidarity. October is **Mi'kmaq History Month** and 1 October is **NS Mi'kmaq Treaty Day** which recognizes the Mi'kmaq treaties of peace and friendship signed in 1752. On the 1st we also celebrate the **International Day for Older Persons**, on the 2nd the **International Day of Non-Violence**, and on the 4th the **National Sisters in Spirit Vigil**.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seniors for Climate Oct 1st : Street Rally and March 11:45-1 Beginning at corner of Main and Hawthorne. Look for displays at Farmer's Market.

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.

