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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)*

February 16, 2025- Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude: *Rock-a-My Soul* Guitar Group
 Welcome and Announcements
 Introit: (97 MV Listen, God is Calling)
 (Listen) **Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,**
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy
 (Listen) **Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,**
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy

Call to Worship (responsive)
 Jesus is the light of the world,
Let us follow the way God opens for us.
 Jesus is the hope of creation.
Let us experience the promise of the resurrection.
 Jesus is the grace of God among us.
Let us receive the goodness of God into our lives.

Opening Prayer (together)
God of grace and love,
you are the creator of all things visible and invisible;
you are the author of love and joy;
and you send Jesus to proclaim your way;
so we come this day to worship you, to honour you, to thank you,
and to know the good news for our lives and for our world. Amen

Hymn: 333 VU *Come Let us Sing*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer
 Hymn: 612 VU *There's a Balm in Gilead*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 1 (p. 724 VU)
 First Lesson: Jeremiah 17:5-10 Selina Wang
 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Pamela Cunningham
 Gospel: Luke 6:17-26
 Anthem: *Deep River* Guitar Group
 Sermon: "Promises and Warnings"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 144 MV *Like a Healing Stream*
 Minute for Social Justice
 Offering and Offertory Response (104 MV Know That God is Good)
Know that God is good, know that God is good,
know that God is good, God is good, God is good.
C'est vrai: Dieu est bon! C'est vrai: Dieu est bon!
C'est vrai: Dieu est bon! Dieu est bon! Dieu est bon!

Prayers of the People
 Hymn: 424 VU *May the God of Hope Go With Us*
 Commissioning and Benediction
 Choral Benediction: (431 VU Sing Amen)
 (Sing Amen) ***Amen we praise your name, O God***
 (Sing Amen) ***Amen we praise your name, O God***
 (Sing Amen) ***Amen, amen, amen, amen,***
amen, we praise your name O God.

Postlude *This Little Light of Mine* Guitar Group

A warm welcome to everyone joining us for worship. May this time help you draw 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.

Coffee Hosts this morning are Paul and Sally Van De Wiel

Scripture for Next Sunday

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 • 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-44 • Luke 6:27-38



Celebrated the third Monday in February, Nova Scotia Heritage Day is an annual reminder of our storied past and an opportunity to honour the remarkable people, places and events that have contributed to this province's unique heritage.

This year, we honour Mi'kmaq activist Nora Bernard.

Nora was born on September 22, 1935, at Millbrook First Nation, one of seven children. When Nora was nine years old, her mother was forced to send Nora and her siblings to the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School.

Nora went on to marry and had six children. She was a mother, grandmother, aunt, wife, and Elder in her community.

Her family and community were very important to her. In 1987, she founded the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School Association and began to search for and contact other Survivors. This was the start of her fight for justice, recognition and compensation for Survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School system.

In 1995, she launched a class-action lawsuit against the Government of Canada. This was the catalyst that led to the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history and compensation for Survivors across the country.

Nora died in 2007 and sadly did not witness the formation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which continues today to raise awareness of the residential school system and its impacts. We remember and honour her as a brave champion for her community and Indigenous people across Canada.

The prayers and Christian sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of *Sterling Robert Partridge* who died last week. Sterling's funeral was last Thursday at St. James. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers during this time.

The prayers and Christian sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of *Charlotte Sangster* who died earlier this week. Charlotte's funeral is on Tuesday at 2pm at St. James with visitation the hour before the service. Please keep all of the family in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, February 18

11:00 am Community Hot Meal Program
2:30 pm Meditation Group in the Parlour. Contact Fran for more information 902 870-1198.

Thursday, February 20

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

African Heritage Month in the United Church-In February, we celebrate Black history and honour the contributions and struggles of people of African descent. In the early 1900s the Canadian Prairies gained some unexpected migrants through US advertisements for new Canadian settlers. They were post-slavery American Black migrants from Oklahoma, and they were headed for Amber Valley, which is just on the outskirts of Athabasca, AB. The first wave of Amber Valley pioneers were led by a pastor, Henry Steed, in 1909. It is hard to imagine how anyone could make such a treacherous trip from Oklahoma to northern Alberta, especially in the days of little to no infrastructure and with temperatures which dipped to -50. Yet come they did and their story is part of our history as Canadians and people of the United Church.

The Annual Reports for 2024 as well as the financial statements are available at the door and online. Please take one and read through in preparation of the Congregational Annual Meeting next week.

Income Tax Receipts for 2024 are available at the door. Please make sure you stop and pick yours up before you leave. If you donated through Canada Helps those receipts were emailed to you or can be resent at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/tax-receipts/> (all you need is the email address you used for your donation).

The Social Justice Collective invites you to celebrate multiple dates this week. The 17th is **NS Heritage Day**. This year we honour Nora Bernard – the Millbrook First Nation Mi'kmaq activist who fought for and won compensation for survivors of the Canadian Indian residential school system. The 20th is the **World Day of Social Justice!** The 2025 theme is "Empowering Inclusion: Bridging Gaps for Social Justice", underscoring the importance of inclusive policies, lifelong learning, and social protections to combat systemic inequality. 21 February is the Silver Jubilee Celebration of **International Mother Language Day** – reaffirming the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism in fostering dignity, peace, and understanding for all.

Thank you to everyone who showed so much care during Susan's illness and death. The cards, calls, flowers, and many acts of kindness will always be remembered. - *The Webber Family*

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Sunday, February 23

11:30 am A shared meal in the hall following worship which leads into our Congregational Annual Meeting. The Congregation are invited to bring some rolls or desserts to go with the chili that the Council is providing (a vegan option will be available). Everyone is welcome!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter Square set/Ceilidh at St Ninian's Place today from 1:30 - 4:00 pm. Featured performers are Shelley Campbell and Allan Dewar. Admission: adults - \$10.00; students by donation; children under 12 free. Square dance lessons are provided. Light lunch provided as well.

Lions Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Sunday February 23 from 9-12 at the Lions Den 13 Highland Dr. ext. Donations at the door and proceeds will go towards providing Lions Stoves for Ukraine.

