



Rev. Peter Smith (Clergy), Carolyn Curry (Organist)
May MacKenzie (CE Dir), Elena Leblanc (Custodian)
Barb Shea (Secretary) office@stjamesuc.com
197 Main St, Antigonish, NS B2G 2B8
(902) 863-2001 www.stjamesuc.com

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)*

October 19, 2025- Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: (79 MV Spirit Open My Heart vs 1)

*God replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.
Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit open my heart.*

Call to Worship (responsive)

God calls us as people of faith

to turn our attention from our concerns and worries.

God asks us as people of faith

to listen to where the Holy Spirit is calling in our lives.

God invites us as people of faith

to answer Jesus with our praise, our prayers, and our service.

Prayer of Approach (together)

God of our hopes and our hearts,

You provide the gift of faith but we lose heart quickly.

Troubles weaken our trust and

disappointments eat away at our commitment.

**Grant us, we pray, your peace and perseverance that we might be
unfailing witnesses and examples of your love and grace, Amen**

Hymn: 415 VU *God, We Praise You For the Morning*

Children's Time and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 225 VU *We Praise You For the Sun*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 119:97-104 (Part Four p. 840 VU)

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:27-34

Pamela Cunningham

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:16-4:5

Diane Theuerkauf

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Anthem *Let Us Love One Another* (Sherman)

Sermon "Prayer, Justice, and Faith"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Hymn: 176 MV *Three things I Promise*

Minute for Social Justice

Offering and Offering Prayer

Offertory Response (542 VU We Give You But Your Own)

*We give you but your own; what'er the gift may be
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.*

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 606 VU *In Christ There is No East or West*

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction (79 MV Spirit Open My Heart vs 2)

*Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought word and deed, may my living bring you glory.
Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.*

Postlude *A Celtic Blessing* (Henderson)

Vocals: Michèle Ashby & Brenda Rose

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.

Greeters at the Door are Members of Finance and Stewardship

Storyteller at Children's worship is May MacKenzie

Coffee Hosts are: Christine Briand and Hope Graham

Scriptures Next Sunday

Joel 2:23-32 • 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 • Luke 18:9-14

The Bible

The Bible is central to The United Church of Canada. As a source of wisdom, personal prayer, and devotion, we believe that reading and studying the Bible can bring us closer to God. It remains one of our best ways of experiencing God's continuing work of creation and liberation in the world, while offering us forgiveness, healing, and new life in Jesus.

*Scripture is our song for the journey, the living word
passed on from generation to generation
to guide and inspire,
that we might wrestle a holy revelation for our time and place
from the human experiences
and cultural assumptions of another era.
God calls us to be doers of the word and not hearers only.
(A Song of Faith)*

We often refer to scripture as “the Word of God.” By this we mean that the writer was inspired by God, and that, through the reading of scripture, God speaks to us in our time and place.

These old, old stories—the various books that make up the Bible—are a living word that speaks in new and fresh ways to each generation. Yet we also know that they are the stories of two ancient communities—ancient Israel and the early Christian movement—trying to be faithful to God under difficult circumstances.

The stories and teachings in the Bible have a mysterious power to inform our lives. But some of what was experienced and written then doesn't fit with today's world. For example, there are passages in the Bible that may be read to condone slavery or condemn homosexuality. We do not accept those interpretations.

*The wholeness of scripture testifies
to the oneness and faithfulness of God.
The multiplicity of scripture testifies to its depth:
two testaments, four gospels,
contrasting points of view held in tension—
all a faithful witness to the One and Triune God,
the Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love. (A Song of Faith)*

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Tuesday, October 22

11:00 am Community Hot Meal in the Hall
2:30 pm Meditation Group in the Parlour. Please use the Office door. Text Fran 902 872 1198 for info.

Wednesday, October 23

7:00 pm Choir practice in the Sanctuary

Thursday, October 24

11:00 am Community Hot Meal in the Hall

The Fall issue of Connections, our congregational newsletter, is available in print version at the door and in pdf on our website. Thanks to everyone who contributed articles!

UPCOMING AT ST. JAMES

Garnet Rogers, gifted guitarist, singer, songwriter and composer, performs a benefit concert for the Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network **Sunday, Oct. 19th, 7pm here at St. James**. Tickets are \$30 at the door; seniors, students and unwaged \$15. Breaking the Silence is completing more than 35 years of solidarity with Guatemalan organizations facing repression and human rights violations, with financial and moral support from the United Church. Invite friends and family. Come early. Doors open at 6:30pm.

Highlight Sunday- after service on Sunday, October 26th St. James shines with so many groups and activities. Is there something you would like to be a part of this coming year? Have a look at the information on the tables and talk to the people who have “Ask Me About” nametags!

2026 United Church Calendars for sale \$10. Please contact Christine at 902 714-9463 or christine@betterbodiesbymassage.ca

October is when we acknowledge God's great bounty! For those of us who have so much to celebrate this month, could we extend our gifts to others and share with the local Community Food Pantry/Fridge organization by donating some non-perishable goods. For Sunday, October 26th, perhaps you could bring in some tinned meat? Every donation, no matter how small, is valued.

Interested in Social Justice issues? Environment, Poverty, Peace, Food Security, Housing Security, etc? Think about joining the St James' Social Justice Collective! We welcome new members and ideas. If you want to know more, please contact the office for a list of current members/contact info and we'll be happy to answer questions.

St James' Prayer Circle is a small group of folks who believe in the power of prayer. We are happy to pray for individuals and situations upon request. If you'd like to join us or if you would like to bring forward a prayer request, please speak to Michèle Ashby after church or call her at 232-3473. All matters are kept strictly confidential.

Did you know that 100 Women Who Care meets here at St. James to provide financial support to assorted local charities? If you can donate \$100 four times yearly it's an efficient, impactful way to fund worthy causes. At each meeting three registered charities' names are randomly drawn to give a five minute presentation at the next meeting. The women vote on which non-profit will receive that session's donations. Some past recipients include CACL, Positive Action for Keppoch (PAK) Society, Cathy's Place at St. Martha's Hospital and our own Hot Meal Program. For more information go to <https://www.100wvcantigonish.ca/> or call 902 863-0633.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Antigonish Lions are having their Pancake and Sausage Breakfast for Sunday October 26 from 9-12 at the Lions Den on 13 Highland Dr. Ext.. Donations at the door will go to The Jordon Myles Foundation, raising mental health awareness while reducing stigma in our communities with You Matter Bags.

The Municipality of the County of Antigonish is carrying out a Municipal Boundary Review, a process that looks at how our municipal districts are divided and how many councillors represent residents. Public information sessions are being held at community centres around the County. These sessions are your opportunity to learn more, ask questions and share your feedback on the proposed boundary changes. Visit antigonishcounty.ca for the information session schedule or email Beth.Schumacher@antigonishcounty.ca for more details.

HOLLY TEA AND SALE

Saturday, November 15, 2024, 12 Noon to 2 p.m.

The countdown is on! It's just over three weeks until our annual Holly Tea and Sale. St James has a well-established tradition of fun, fund-raising, and fellowship, so now is the time for everyone in the congregation to think about what they can do to make this popular event a success. The following is a list of the various tables. If you have suggestions or questions, please feel free to reach out by phone or text.

Conveners - Christine Briand 902 714 9463
Judi MacPherson 902 863 1006
Joanne MacKenzie 902 714 5724
Barbara Gardiner 902 863 1641

Bake Table, Candy, Pickles & Preserves

Remember the bake table when making your Christmas goodies. This table always draws a large crowd. Homemade bread, muffins, loaves, cakes, pies, squares, cookies, and Christmas treats are all popular. What would a Christmas sale be without fudge?? Autumn is also the time of year when we close out our gardens and finish up pickles, jams and preserves. You may have an extra bottle or two to donate.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please note any special ingredients - nuts, eggs, milk or cheese. This can help us with pricing and allergy warnings.

New - To - You

Do you have items you have purchased, received, or never used? Please consider donating them to this table. These are not the usual yard sale items; they are new or like-new items.

Christmas Room

We have a special room dedicated to all things Christmas—seasonal items, wall hangings, tableware, decorations, etc. If it's Christmas-related and in good condition, we would love to have it.

Silent Auction

Do you have a special item you know would be popular to bid on? Businesses are not solicited, so we are counting on your generosity to fill these tables. Items like paintings, china, and beautiful wreaths have been donated in the past. Perhaps you have a skill or talent you could donate—like snow shovelling or knitting woollen items to order. You may want to donate a gift, like a catered dinner or a boat tour. Please give an approximate value for your donation to aid in a starting bid amount.

Jewellery

Have you cleaned out your jewellery box lately? This is a very popular table that accepts new and previously loved items. Working watches, bracelets, brooches, earrings, and necklaces are all welcome.

Children's Corner

For just \$2, children can decorate cookies, do crafts, and have a small lunch. This area is well supervised and allows drop-off to give the adults time to shop and enjoy their own lunch.

The Drop-Off times for donation items and baked goods are listed below. Please use the back door for the church, as items are sorted in the storage room.

Baking and preserves, etc.

Friday, November 14, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Saturday, November 15, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Don't forget - UNCUT squares are needed for the tea table.

All other tables

Week days starting October 20th through to Nov 7th, from 10 am to noon. If alternate drop off times are needed, contact Barbara Gardiner at 902 863 1641.