



HE IS RISEN

Minister's Message

Dear St. James Family,

Easter greetings of new and abundant life!

For the past 117 years, St. James has been known as the neighbourhood church. Our caring, loving, hard-working, community-minded congregation has always opened our doors, shared our space, and found meaning and growth in learning from others. We were an affirming church from the get-go!

Our congregation is tremendous at thinking outside the box - offering worship, church school, guides, brownies, scouts, hockey and softball, food at the Peterborough Exhibition, starting the very first Breakfast Program in Peterborough, offering community theatre for over 50 years, and the list goes on. Being able to offer a safe, loving and welcoming space to all who come through the doors, has always been of paramount importance to us.

Fifteen years ago, we decided that we wanted to share our space in a more intentional, long-term way. The New Canadians Centre were near neighbours, their services and staff were growing and our values aligned beautifully.

Our partnership began back in 2010, with the Thursday morning NCC's Women's Group gathering in the St. James kitchen – cooking together and creating friendships. Over the next few years, we negotiated a long-term rental agreement with the NCC and have enjoyed and appreciated sharing our building, forging relationships, nurturing our partnership, and being a positive space for new Canadians.

All these years later and after tremendous prayerful consideration, our congregation is ready to become a tenant instead of a landlord. While this decision comes with sadness and feelings of loss and uncertainty, we are also grateful and excited to hand over the reigns of building ownership to the New Canadians Centre. We look forward to not being responsible for building and property costs and upkeep. We look forward to remaining in the building and focusing on our life and ministry, and where the Spirit is leading us. We look forward to nurturing and growing our community partnerships and ever dreaming big about what opportunities might lie ahead for us as a community of faith.

During this Easter Season, I leave you with these fitting and meaningful words from verse two of the beloved hymn, In the Bulb There Is a Flower.

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody,
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

This is our time for hope and joy - for we know God goes with us on this great new adventure. We have so much to celebrate and to look forward to. Thanks be to God for this opportunity!

With gratitude to each of you for who you are and all you do,

Reverend Julie van Haaster

TREASURER'S UPDATE

BY MARILYN PERRIN

Happy Easter to all of you.

As we move into Spring, another very successful Stewardship campaign is in the books. The committee asked the congregation to help raise \$3500 towards the January snowplowing bill. The response was not surprising! Once again, you not only met, but exceeded the goal. Our members donated \$4236 and with additional contributions by the Tuesday Morning Craft Club and Fyd-I-Styx, our grand total was \$4786. Thank you to all who were able to help with this campaign.

The first three months of the year are expensive ones with high utility and snowplowing bills. This year we have a \$47,500 deficit (to March 31) compared to our budget. We experienced a harsh winter resulting in snowplowing costs of more than \$30000 and utility costs of approximately \$20,000. As a result, we have had to redeem a \$25000 GIC. While these expenses will end for us as we move forward in our role as tenant rather than owner, so too will the income received through room rentals. We will receive a monthly mortgage payment of \$6000 from the NCC (\$5460 to St. James, \$540 to ECORC) however when added to our monthly donations, we will need to generate income through various campaigns and events to cover our monthly expenses. We will continue to rely on your contributions to meet our obligations.

One easy way for you to help us budget for the year is to sign up for PAR (pre-authorized remittance) if you have not already done so. We have experienced two Sundays this winter when the service had to be cancelled due to weather. Donations decreased because the collection plates were not passed. Historically, revenues drop significantly during the summer months. Not only do PAR donations make bookkeeping easier, but, most importantly, they guarantee that we will receive consistent contributions each month.

Your donations are always appreciated, no matter the amount.

How Can You Help? You have already started

Please continue to support the activities which take place throughout the year:

Gift Card orders
(a very simple way to raise money –
\$1088 earned already this year)

St. James Players 'Not Brian's Broadway' –
date to be determined

UCW events such as Muffin parties, Christmas Tea and Bazaar, bake sales, etc. The UCW has donated \$4,500 to the church this year for which we are very grateful. They will be hosting a 'High Tea' on Saturday, May 24th. Tickets are \$20. Please support what promises to be a lovely afternoon.

Other regular fundraising concerts by a variety of artists beginning in September

Giving Sundays

Matching Donor Campaign
May 11 – June 30

We have a goal of \$15,000 from the congregation to match money pledged by our donors

Lunches, dinners

Danny and Friends Christmas Concert

Anniversary Sunday donation – October
(\$117 for 117 years)

Christmas Gift Baskets

Special collections (Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas)

Scrap metal collections

Fyd-L-Styx concerts or similar productions

Other fundraising efforts which are yet to be determined

St. James Players productions
(Spring and Fall)

Once again, I would like to thank you for your contributions. Together, we can get ourselves back on track! Even a little helps a lot!



Thank You

To the Board of Stewards

Thank You All Past and Present Stewards!

Now that we are officially tenants at 221 Romaine Street and are no longer responsible for caring for the building and grounds, we take this opportunity to thank the Stewards for being amazing caretakers of the property.

For the past 117 years the Board of Stewards has faithfully served St. James in countless ways. They have cared for the building with the same love and devotion they have cared for their own homes. Many of them have been in parts of this building that the rest of us don't even know exist - nooks and cranny's - some filled with creepy crawlies, bats, birds or mice. They have responded to calls in the middle of the night from Georgian Bay (the security company), they've been at the church early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays to respond to emergencies such as a leaking roof, flooding from a backed-up sewer, power outages, and the list goes on.

Many of them have been on tall ladders painting, making repairs and hanging things. They researched and hired kind, trustworthy experts to care for and improve parts of the building and property. These professionals have become friends to St. James.

They offered support and affirmation to the Treasurer in the days before we had a Finance Team.

Committee Chairs have served on liaison committees with the NCC since we started sharing the building many years ago.

Two individuals who have served as chairs for extended periods of time are still very active at St. James. Dale White, thank you for your many years of dedication, leadership and hard work. You went above and beyond in so many ways, and it was greatly appreciated! I know this was a position of importance for your family as both your dad and grandfather served as chairs of the Board of Stewards.

Kate (Ellis) thank you for your service these past 8 years. There seems to be no limit to what you have been willing to do for St. James and we appreciate your countless hours of dedication to this building, as well as your expertise in all things mechanical, and your eager willingness to learn and master so many new things along the way. Every room in this building has been improved in some small or large way because of you - and most of it was done behind the scenes.

Well done Board of Stewards - you have been good and faithful servants, and we thank you from the bottoms of our hearts!



From the New Canadians Centre

To Our Friends at St. James United Church,

This is a momentous occasion for both of our organizations, and I want to express my gratitude and appreciation personally and of behalf of the New Canadians Centre. Thank you for believing in the work of the New Canadians Centre and for making a home for us here at St. James. We carry the light of generations who have built this place into what it stands for: a place of safety, refuge, laughter and joy; a place to recognize and overcome challenges, to celebration life and relationships in all their complexity.

I want to thank in particular; Fred, Lynda, Kate, Ron and Julie for their candour, collegiality and trust throughout the negotiations, and for never losing sight of the value of the relationship between our organizations. Our is a relationship founded on shared passion for building an inclusive, welcoming and loving community.

May our relationship continue to blossom for years to come.

With respect,

Andy Cragg, Executive Director

UPCOMING WORSHIP



APRIL

27 UCW 100th Anniversary of the UCC Celebration

MAY

04 Worship Leader, Lynda Parker
Easter 2, Food Bank

11 Mother's Day,
Christian Family Sunday,
Loose Collection to M&S
Annual Matching Donor
Campaign Begins
Albert Moher, guest musician

18 Easter 4, Minute for Affirm

25 Easter 5,
Affirm Anniversary
Guest Speaker, Alex Bierk

JUNE

01 Albert Moher, guest musician
PRIDE Sunday, Food Bank

08 100th Anniversary of the United
Church Of Canada Worship
Celebration at Lang Pioneer
Village

15 Indigenous Sunday, Father's Day
Minute for Steward/Stewardship

22 Messy Church Summer
A celebration of Faith's time
with us, followed by lunch,
presents, and cake.

29 Annual Matching Donor Campaign
Ends

**JOIN PETERBOROUGH COUNTY
UNITED CHURCHES!**

SUNDAY JUNE 8, 2025 FROM 10AM-3PM
AT LANG VILLAGE FOR A

**100TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

WORSHIP BEGINNING AT 11AM
THEME: DEEP, BOLD, DARING

MASS CHOIR DIRECTED BY BEV TEMPLAR

FOOD TRUCKS LOADED WITH DELICIOUS FOOD
(OR BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC LUNCH)

KIDS ACTIVITIES

FULL USE OF LANG VILLAGE

5TH
ANNUAL

MATCHING DONOR CAMPAIGN

MAY 11 - JUNE 29

Once again, St. James is thankful to
be running our annual matching
donor campaign!

We have been challenged to match the
\$15,000
generously donated by two members
of our congregation

WE CAN DO IT!!!

Upcoming Events

AT ST. JAMES

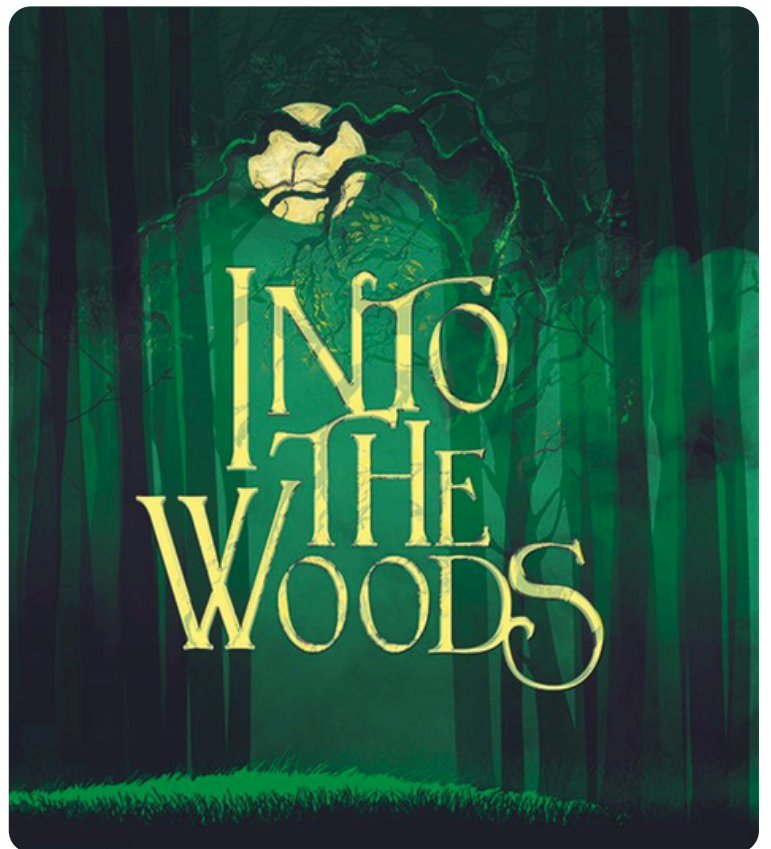
St. James Office
will be

CLOSED

APRIL 21 - 25

Voicemail messages
will be monitored

See you on April 28th



The St. James Players fall show *Into the Woods* is holding its Auditions May 5 & 7, 2025 6:30-10pm at the St. James United Church - 221 Romaine Street, Peterborough ON.

Callbacks to take place on May 12th!

Directed by the renowned Jacquie Ainsworth with Musical Director Dustin Bowers & Choreographer Melissa Earle.

Into the Woods is a spellbinding musical by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine that weaves together beloved fairy tales like Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood, and Rapunzel—all tied together by an original story about a baker and his wife on a quest to break a witch's curse. What begins as a whimsical journey for each character to fulfill their wish soon unravels into a poignant tale about consequences, loss, and the true meaning of happily ever after. With its rich score, clever lyrics, and emotional depth, *Into the Woods* is both enchanting and thought-provoking, reminding us that wishes come true—but not always for free.

Signup for your audition today:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSIV2bGb3JbVMYe__qZ8reMqmzy_V5TuEzXmdM2_HCdbEisw/viewform

You're invited! ST. JAMES UCW HIGH TEA

Saturday, May 24, 2025
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Limited number of tickets on
sale until May 20th
\$20 per ticket

705-742-2222
info@stjamesunitedchurch.ca



St. James United Church
221 Romaine St., Peterborough, ON



TRUNK SALE

Saturday, June 7
8:00 am - 11:00 am

Spring Cleaning?

Help St. James and clear your clutter!

Book a parking lot spot for \$25 and bring your trunk full of things to sell. Leave the advertising, promotion and traffic management to the St. James team.

Reserve soon, spots are limited. Text Carolee your name and phone number at 705-875-0550

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH
221 Romaine St. Peterborough, ON