



Minister's Message

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
(Voices United 703 vs.1)

Happy Easter!

After 40 days of prayer, contemplation, challenge, and growth, we have arrived! Easter is a time of great joy and new beginnings, and we give thanks for the gift of abundant life in and around us. We are grateful for our experiences of God's love and presence, the stories and examples of Jesus that bring joy and inspiration to our lives, and the guidance of the Spirit whose call we work hard to prayerfully consider. The days ahead are filled with tremendous potential for transformation, and we give thanks.

As we journey through this time together discerning the next few years of our life and ministry, and as we continue plans to sell our building and transition from being landlords to tenants, it will be interesting to see where God's Spirit leads us - what opportunities we embrace, and new partnerships we forge. I encourage each of us to continue to dream big and think outside the box! It is truly an exciting time to be part of the St. James faith community.

Be sure to check out the calendar of special events planned for this year as we celebrate our 116th anniversary, and as the United Church of Canada begins its 100th anniversary celebrations.

Together, let us offer thanks to God for the hidden promise of abundant congregational and community new life found in the seeds of our imaginations, hopes, and aspirations.

Blessings to you and your families during this season of new beginnings.

Reverend Julie van Haaften

Treasurer's Update

by Marilyn Perrin

Happy Easter to all of you.

As we move into Spring, we have completed a very successful Stewardship campaign. The committee asked the congregation to help raise \$3000 towards the January snowplowing bill. The response was not surprising! Once again, you not only met, but exceeded the goal. Our members donated \$3092 and with additional contributions by the St. James Players and the Tuesday Morning Craft Club, our grand total was \$4592. Thank you to all who were able to help with this campaign.

The first three months of the year are historically expensive ones with high utility bills, and an ECORC (East Central Ontario Regional Council) assessment fee of \$11,800. In addition, this year we had an asbestos removal bill totaling \$2500 as well as our everyday costs. This year we have a \$33,000 deficit (to Feb. 28) compared to our budget. As the weather warms up, snowplowing and fuel costs will decrease, hopefully allowing us to become more in line with our budget. 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 - \$800 earned already this year)	Giving Sundays
UCW events such as Muffin parties, Christmas Tea and Bazaar, bake sales, etc.	St. James Players productions (Spring and Fall)
Lunches, dinners	Matching Donor Campaigns
Scrap metal collections	Toonie drives
Fyd-L-Styx concerts and other similar events	Anniversary Sunday donation (\$115 for 115 years)
	Special collections (Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas)

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. This ensures that the church receives donations throughout the year, even if you are not able to be at church. Historically, revenues drop significantly during the summer months but expenses do not. PAR donations guarantee that we will receive your donation through July and August.

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!

THE EASTER CHALLENGE

EVERY YEAR IT HAPPENS:
EARTH SHAKES HER SLEEPY HEAD,
STILL A BIT WINTERED AND DULL,
AND FEELS NEW LIFE STIRRING

EVERY YEAR COCOONS GIVE UP THEIR TREASURES,
FRESH SHOOTS PUSH THROUGH BROWN LEAVES,
SEEMINGLY DEAD BRANCHES SHINE WITH GREEN,
AND SINGING BIRDS FIND THEIR WAY HOME.

EVERY YEAR WE HEAR THE STORIES

EMPTY TOMB, SURPRISED GRIEVERS,
RUNNERS WITH NEWS AND REVELATION,
UNEXPECTED ENCOUNTERS,
CONVERSATIONS ON THE ROAD,
TALES OF NETS FILLING WITH FISH,
AND BREAKFAST ON A SEASHORE.

AND EVERY YEAR
THE DULL AND DEAD IN US
MEETS OUR EASTER CHALLENGE:

TO BE OPEN TO THE UNEXPECTED,
TO BELIEVE BEYOND OUR SECURITY,
TO WELCOME GOD IN EVERY FORM,
AND TRUST IN OUR OWN GREENING

JOYCE RUPP



116th Events

May

- 2-5 **St. James Players present, Disney's Little Mermaid**
SOLD OUT!
- 5 **116 Brown Bag lunches for one city**
Join the Worship, Membership, Pastoral Care & M&P Committees in creating brown bag lunches for One City.
- 12 **Annual Donor Match Campaign begins**
Running from Mother's Day (May 12th) to Father's Day (June 16th) Susan Weaver has generously donated \$15,000 and we are invited to match it – to help cover the costs running our building and programs over the leaner summer months. We can do it!!!
- Celebrating Rev. Julie's years of service**
We're celebrating Rev. Julie's 25 years of ordination and 15 years of service at St. James on May 12th.
- 15 **UCW's Spring Muffin Party**
It's the Annual UCW Spring Muffin Party at 9:30 - 11:00 AM. Baked goods and New-to-you tables. Bring your friends!
- 26 **Affirm Anniversary**
Join your Affirm Team as we celebrate the past and anticipate the future with great excitement!

Jun

- 2 **United Church of Canada's 100th Anniversary**
Celebrations with other United Churches in Peterborough and area begins!!!
- Affirm Speaker, Jordan Sullivan**
- 16 **Messy Church Summer**
Family fun at Messy Church Summer!
- Indigenous Sunday**
- Father's Day**
- Annual Donor Match Campaign ends**
Will we reach our goal!?

Jul

- 7 **Shared Worship at Greenwood United Church**
Shared worship at Greenwood United Church (737 Donwood Drive) at 10:30 AM
- 14 **Shared Worship at Greenwood United Church**
Shared worship at Greenwood United Church (737 Donwood Drive) at 10:30 AM
- 21 **Worship at Lang Pioneer Village**
Worship with other United Churches at Lang Pioneer Village (104 Lang Road)
- 28 **Shared Worship at Greenwood United Church**
Shared worship at Greenwood United Church (737 Donwood Drive) at 10:30 AM

Aug

- 4 **Shared Worship at St. James**
with worship leader, Jane Huggins
- 11 **Shared Worship at St. James**
with worship leader, Lynda Parker
- 21 **Shared Worship at St. James**
with worship leader, UCW
- 28 **Shared Worship at St. James**
with worship leader, Jim Lowes

116th Events

Sep

- 1 Creation Time Begins**
with worship leader, Music Director & the St. James Choir
- 8 Annual Corn Roast**
St. James Annual Corn Roast Lunch after Church
- 15 21st Annual Abraham Festival featuring
The Pilgrim Knitter, Kirk Dunn**
Enjoy a potluck lunch with St. James and the Abraham Festival followed by a presentation by the Pilgrim Knitter, Kirk Dunn in Wesley Hall.
- 21 Pride Parade and Pride in the Park**
Join the St. James Affirm Team as we participate in Peterborough's Pride Parade and Pride in the Park
- 29 Every Child Matters, Orange Shirt Day**
By wearing an orange shirt to worship service, you make a statement to support reconciliation and commit to the enduring truth that EVERY CHILD MATTERS.

Oct

- 1 Annual Stewardship Anniversary Campaign \$116 for 116 years**
Our goal is to reach \$5800 and 50 participants for our annual stewardship anniversary campaign
- 16 UCW's Fall Muffin Party**
Join the UCW at their annual Fall Muffin Party at 9:30 - 11:00 AM. Baked goods and New-to-you tables. Bring your friends!
- 27 116th Anniversary Sunday**
Guest Speaker, Rev. Darren Liepold

Nov

- 1 Affirm Team 116th Anniversary Challenge**
The goal is to collect 116 pairs of mittens/gloves for One City throughout the month of November.
- 16 UCW Christmas Tea and Bazaar**
Come and have a bite to eat after getting some Christmas shopping done at the UCW Christmas Tea and Bazaar
- 17 Transgender Day of Remembrance
Guest Speaker, Rev. Ruth Wood**
Join us as we welcome Rev. Ruth Wood. Lunch to follow worship service
- 27 116th Anniversary Sunday**
Guest Speaker, Rev. Darren Liepold

Dec

- 116th Anniversary December Congregational Challenge**
Collect 50 Gift Cards for YWCA Crossroads and the Children's Aid Society
- 1 Hope Abides Multifaith Gathering**
Service begins at Noon.
- 15 Christmas Music Morning**
Sing along to your favourite Christmas carols.
- 22 Christmas Pageant/Messy Church**
Guess who's coming to town...
- 24 Family Christmas Eve service**
Service begins at 7:00 PM