



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

Black History Month and Annual Congregational Meeting

Weekly Service Bulletin – February 22nd, 2026

Living fully, intentionally and compassionately

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More Info: affirmunited.ca • united-church.ca

**Please rise in body or spirit*

PRELUDE / WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH / INTROIT

WE GATHER

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Iris Muir

"We respectfully acknowledge that St. James is located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations.

Our St. James congregation respectfully acknowledges that these Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come."

Curve Lake First Nation Land Acknowledgement (adapted slightly for use)

CALL TO ACTION

Cora Muir

*A Land Acknowledgement is a single act of reconciliation. As an Affirming Ministry that is part of the United Church of Canada, we commit to learning from, listening to and supporting Indigenous people. One way we can do this is through the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action**.*

Call to Action #25

We call upon the federal government to establish a written policy that reaffirms the independence of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to investigate crimes in which the government has its own interest as a potential or real party in civil litigation.

JESUS CANDLELIGHTING LITURGY (responsive)

Maeve O'Neill

One: We light the Jesus candle as a symbol of his love shining in the world.

All: We light the Jesus candle knowing that we are called to share this love.

One: We light the Jesus candle and commit ourselves to work for a world that is more just, equal and caring - where we live in right relations.

(The Jesus candle is lit.)

GATHERING SONG*Over My Head****MV#88 vs. 1,2,4**

This is a traditional African-American spiritual that is about the hope that was felt by people trying to escape slavery via the "Underground Railroad". It is intended to be sung slowly and freely.

Words and music: African-American spiritual; French trans. Denise Soulodre, 2006 Arrangement: Stephen Lee, 2006. Reprinted with permission under CCLI License No. 1918298. All rights reserved.

Refrain:

**Over my head, I hear music in the air. Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air. There must be a God somewhere.**

1. When the storms of life are ragin' I hear music in the air.
When the storms of life are ragin' I hear music in the air.
When the storms of life are ragin' I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere. **R**
2. When the winds of strife are blowin' I hear music in the air.
When the winds of strife are blowin' I hear music in the air.
When the winds of strife are blowin' I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere. **R**
4. O Jesus is a-callin' I hear music in the air.
O Jesus is a-callin' I hear music in the air.
O Jesus is a-callin' I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere. **R**

CALL TO CELEBRATION *(responsive)*

One: We are called to be the church.

All: We celebrate the joy of service, partnership, caring and worship.

One: Let us sing thanksgiving! We have good news to share.

All: Praise God, for we are blessed abundantly!

Laura Turnbull, Gathering - Epiphany, 2021

OPENING PRAYER *(responsive)*

One: For the beginnings and the endings, and the in-between times –

All: We give thanks!

One: For the questions and the answers, and the searching we do –

All: We give thanks!

One: For the baptisms and the memorials, and the communion times too –

All: We give thanks!

We thank you that you have been with us and continue to be with us.

One: Bless our time together – as we worship and as we discuss the life and ministry of St. James. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF UCW LIFE MEMBERSHIP PIN**WE REFLECT****ANTHEM****HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING**

Deuteronomy 31:7-8

Jane Huggins

⁷Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and bold, for you are the one who will go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their ancestors to give them, and you will put them in possession of it.

⁸ It is God who goes before you. God will be with you; God will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

REFLECTION

WE RESPOND

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

***SUNG OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *What Can I Do?*

MV#191

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What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

***HYMN**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

VU#575 vs. 1&4

Words: African-American spiritual. Music: African-American spiritual. Arrangement: © 1987 Estate of Wendell Whalum, c/o Mrs. Clarie G. Whalum, 2439 Greenwood Circle, East Point, GA 30344, USA. Used by permission.

African American Spirituals were often written in community and were born out of the struggle for survival, and the hope of life lived freely and equally.

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

POSTLUDE

*(*There will be a 10-minute break before the Congregational Meeting begins.)*

WE MEET

(*Meeting platform will switch to Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER (Joanne Rorke)

PRAYER (Rev. Julie)

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF SECRETARY AND CHAIR FOR MEETING (Joanne Rorke to nominate Marney Horton, and Rev. Julie)

NOMINATION OF EQUITY MONITOR (Joanne Rorke – to nominate Yvonne Lai)

ATTENDANCE AND ZOOM GUIDELINES (Rev. Julie)

PERMANENT MOTIONS (Marney Horton)

"For the Official Board to have the authority to carry out the duties that would normally fall within the responsibility of the congregation between Congregational meetings."

"To allow additional people to join the various committees anytime throughout the year without having to come to the congregation."

"That Adherents have the right to vote on issues at the meeting on temporal matters, this covers the work, life and finances of the church."

PREVIOUS MINUTES (Rev. Julie) (Pages 8-10)

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF AUDITORS (Joanne Rorke)

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (Rev. Julie) (Pages 6-7)

FINANCIAL REPORT (Marilyn Perrin) (Begins on Page 32)

BUDGET 2026 (Marilyn Perrin) (Pages 38-39)

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Rev. Julie) (Pages 12-31)

STAFF APPRECIATION (Bruce Clark)

NEW BUSINESS

IN MEMORIAM (Rev. Julie) (Page 41)

ADJOURNMENT

WE GO FORTH

***CLOSING PRAYER**