

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
Murley Bursey,
October 13, 1927- November 26, 2012
from Shirley,
Carolyn, Sherry, Joanne, Paul and Barry and families.
"Ever loved and remembered."

It is also dedicated in loving memory of
a cherished mother, Roma Paul,
November 30, 1938 – April 27, 2013
from Nancy and Anthony.
*"You blessed our lives with so much love, kindness and
support; you will always be an inspiration to us.
Love is forever."*

St. James United Church

December 1, 2019/First Sunday in Advent - Hope/Baptism

Minister:	Rev. Brian Colbourne
Minister of Youth/Christian Education:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Organist:	Amy Dalziel
Choir:	Senior
Choir Director:	Branden Olsen
Usher in Charge:	Oliver Wellon
Greeters and Ushers:	Tom & Maxine Rose, Don Blackmore, Ruth Baker, Ruby & Aubrey Hill

St. James United Church is a safe place for all people to worship, regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background or sexual orientation.

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CANDLE: (One) As light comes from this candle, may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us, warming our hearts and brightening our way. May His light bring life into the darkness of this world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Promises are made and hope is the result.

All: Advent is the glorious season of hope-filled expectation!

One: Signs of anticipation and yearning surround us.

All: We long for the Christ child – the One who brings hope! One: Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER: (together) May we approach Advent this season as if it were our first-ever Advent. May we come to God new and vulnerable, with open and willing hearts, ready for fresh insights. May we find Jesus, and rely on the Holy Spirit to be with us in every step of our Advent journey. Amen.

HYMN: *All Earth Is Waiting*

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LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE:

One: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.

All: In the beginning is our hope, and hope is in God.

One: This Advent season begins with hope for this world.

All: The first Advent candle symbolizes our hope for this season of short days and long nights.

(Light the first Advent candle)

ADVENT VERSE: *Hope is a Star, verse 1*

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*Hope is a star that shines in the night,
Leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.*

CHILDRENS' TIME, BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

James Eric DeLacey
Savanna Lee Sawyer Purcell-Dwyer

PRESENTATION

BAPTISMAL VOWS

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT: (together) We have heard the will of the parents. We receive these children in Christ's name as we ourselves have been received. We all belong to the one household of faith in Jesus Christ. We will support these parents and their children through prayer, and provide a community of faith in which they are welcome to belong. May we serve God's world together. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: A New Creed 918

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND POURING OF WATER
Action of Baptism

BAPTISM CHORUS:

*I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.
I've been washed in the fountain, filled with God's love.
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
for I'm part of the family, the family of God.*

HYMN: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* 2

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG: *Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Give thanks to God in love made know:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (together) God of hope and promise, the circle of life opens wide with welcome to the vulnerable, needy, and all whom You call children. May the gifts we offer be signs of our commitment to help those who need what the church has to offer. Bless our offerings, we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM: *Look-A That Star* Choir

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 2: 1-5
Matthew 24: 36-44

MEDITATION: A Vision for Life

HYMN: *Be Thou My Vision* 642

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: *Let There Be Light* 679

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH: (One) We are all instruments of hope in a hurting world. Let us take up our call and go, spreading a message of hope for all.

BENEDICTION followed by MUSICAL POSTLUDE
(Let us share the peace of Christ with each other as we leave.)

Minute for Mission: Paul has cancer. He was given three months to live, but he has already surpassed that timeline by a month. In the meantime, his body continues to waste away and he is in constant pain. Here is a story from a UC hospital chaplain about Paul. *“I have been visiting Paul for several weeks in the palliative care unit of the hospital. He has called me in on this particular day to tell me that he has requested medical assistance in dying, and the date and time for the procedure are set. I sit and listen while he talks about the decision he has made, how he came to it, and how his family members are reacting to it. Our conversation that afternoon is heartfelt and real. There is no place for pretence or false bravado in the presence of imminent death. It is a sacred moment. We say a prayer together. My eyes tear up as we say our goodbyes. I know it will be the last time I see him.”* A hospital is not only a place for physical care; it is very much a place for spiritual care. It is here that difficult decisions, life and death decisions, are made on a daily basis. Illness can turn lives upside down. Hospital chaplains are specifically trained to help patients and their families find ways to cope spiritually and emotionally in such times of personal crisis and upheaval. *“My name is Val Cottrill and I work with the South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy of The UCC helping to bring spiritual care into the hospitals of Regina. This essential ministry could not happen without the generous giving of members and adherents through Mission & Service. Thank you for being a part of our ministry.*

St. James United Church Life and Work, December 1, 2019

Worship & Sacraments Committee would like to thank everyone who helped with the decorating of the Sanctuary on November 23rd. We were few in numbers but achieved a great amount of work!

The grand Christmas poinsettias adorning the Sanctuary today are in loving memory of parents, Roma & Eric Paul from Nancy and Anthony.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations to the General Fund:

- *in loving memory of Ben Lake and Beth Holloway from Charlie & Linda Babstock;
- *in loving memory of Beth Holloway and Garry and Andrew Winsor from Janice Winsor;
- *from the Friendship Group; meetings resume on January 22, 2020.

Financial Update: St. James sincerely thanks our congregation for their ongoing support. To meet our budget, we need average weekly givings of \$3,961. (This includes the weekly PAR contributions.)	Givings: November 10: \$4,861 November 17:\$3,264 November 24:\$4,585
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If you use envelopes, please find your 2020 box on a window sill or chair in the Sanctuary, in alphabetical order of your last name. If you are considering setting up PAR for 2020, this is a great time to do it!

Are you looking to help in some way? Our Lay Visitation Program Co-ordinator is seeking folks who may be interested in participating in the program. If this area of help speaks to you, please call or email SuAn in the office: 722-1881, ext. 200, info@stjamesuc.org and let her know your availability.

Christmas Poinsettia deadline today: please write your order on the sheet outside of Susan's office or on the table in the front entrance; \$15 per plant.

Monday, December 2: Susan's Sewing Studio continues, 3-6pm.

Wednesday, December 4: Spiritual Fellowship: 12 noon - 2pm; all welcome.

Wednesday, December 4: Final collection at St. James of donation gift cards for Stella's Circle.

Saturday, December 7 at 7:30pm at St. James: 'Winter Wonderland' concert featuring the St. John's Gay Men's Chorus. Tickets are \$15, available from Patsy, 726-1936 or at the door.

Next Sunday, December 8 at 3pm in the Sanctuary: Project Grace Semester freewill donation; all welcome!

St. James Christmas Concert: Sunday, December 15 at 7pm: A varied evening of Christmas music showcasing the musical talents of St. James United Church and the local community. Performers include the St. James Senior Choir; Amy Dalziel, organist; Shelby Marshall, violinist; Gillian Sheppard, flutist; Glenda Winsor, soprano and Project Grace students. A freewill offering will be collected at the door.

WaterWerks is collecting donations for their 10th Annual Christmas Diaper Drop. Diapers can be dropped off to Sarah in the Sunday School Class room on Sundays, or during the week you can delivered to 96 LeMarchant Road. You can also donate online at diaperdrop.ca All proceeds will be going to the Community Food Sharing Association.

Please see the Community notice board outside the Sanctuary for information on more community events.

Memory Tree Form

Name of person donating: _____

In Memory of: _____

Address: _____ Donation: _____ Env #: _____

At this time of the year, thoughts of our loved ones are never far from our minds. One of the ways we acknowledge this is through the Memory Tree. For a donation of \$5, a colored bulb will be changed to a white one in memory or celebration of a loved one. Deadline: December 16 at 10am The changing of the lights is a beautiful seasonal visible symbol. Even when the tree comes down, the gift continues in the ongoing projects at St. James.

THE END