

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
Margaret Quick Babstock
(March 2, 1919 – June 2, 1999)
beloved mother and grandmother
from her family.

St. James United Church

March 8, 2020/Second Sunday in Lent/Communion

Minister:	Rev. Brian Colbourne
Minister of Youth/Christian Education:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Organist:	Amy Dalziel
Choirs:	AOTS, UCW
Choirs' Director:	Doreen Brown
Usher in Charge:	Jean Thompson
Greeters and Ushers:	Sabrina, Willow and Gracie Pilgrim, Betty Pilgrim, Mary Daya, Linda Babstock

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 and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CANDLE: (One) We light this candle to remind us of the presence of Christ. The light from this one candle shines equally for each one of us; the light from this one candle shines equally for the world.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: You are water to the thirsty, O God.

All: You are bread to those who have a spiritual hunger.

One: Your covenant, O God, is lasting and true.

All: It is for each one of us, but holds good for nations and faith communities.

One: We come to worship our God.

OPENING PRAYER: (together) God, You invite us into community with You — at Your table and in Your world. The responsibility is awesome to love one another as Christ loves us. Thank You — for this community of love. Thank You — for being more than we can imagine. Thank You, God! Amen.

HYMN: *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

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CHILDREN'S TIME, BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

CHORAL ANTHEM

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY CHORUS: *Spirit, Open My Heart* MV79
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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (together) Lenten God, we look toward the Holy City and wonder what is before us. We know that for some it is a journey of hunger and loneliness. So it is that we share these offerings. Receive them and transform them into Your love. We give in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* 651

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12: 1-4
John 3: 1-17

MEDITATION

INVITATION TO CONFESSION: (One) During this season of Lent - a season when we contemplate the path Jesus walked, a season when we seek the Spirit's guidance as we try to follow that path - let us join together to seek communion with God in confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (together) Loving God, we come into Your presence acknowledging the shallow places of our faith, but seeking completeness in You. In our hearts our resolve is to be more faithful. Our desire is to be filled more with hope and love. Hear our prayer for new beginnings. May our newness make us the instruments of Your peace. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (One) Even though we may close God out of our lives, God does not shut us out or stop calling us. Let us accept God's forgiveness and pledge to forgive one another as we have been forgiven. Thanks be, to God.

A NEW CREED 918

HYMN: *Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face, vs. 1-3* 459

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please follow the congregation communion liturgy.)

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING OF THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: (together) God of great mystery, we have shared in Your feast, not only with those who gather in this place this morning, we also share this Holy Communion with sisters, brothers, and siblings around the world. A range of languages and smiles have praised You, O God, from all around the earth. Unite us to one another. Recommit us to Your cause. May Your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

HYMN: *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

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SENDING FORTH: We came with Abraham, small and timid; we came with Nicodemus under the cover of night. We go with faith into the full light of day, but we go knowing that God loves us and goes with us. Amen.

BLESSING

(Let us share the peace of Christ with each other as we leave.)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Minute for Mission Snippet: Mission & Service supports chaplaincy in hospitals, universities, and prisons, as well as supporting student chaplains through your support of theological education.

St. James United Church Life and Work, March 8, 2020

We gratefully acknowledge a donation to Project Grace in loving memory of Joanne Hapgood, R.N., B.N. from mom, dad and family.

Today's Congregational Meeting is after the morning Service to share information on a proposal formulated by Stewardship to address our debt and financial future.

Our Property Committee is looking for a replacement for Keith Davis to carry out the custodial duties every Sunday morning; this is a paid position. Please contact Bill Legge for further details at 770-0345 or w.legge@nl.rogers.com

Financial Update: St. James sincerely thanks our congregation for their ongoing support. To meet our budget, we need average weekly givings of \$4,038. (This includes the weekly PAR contributions.)	Givings: February 16: \$3,890
	February 23: \$2,857
	March 1: \$3,579

Lenten Folders: If you have not received your Lenten folder, you may find it outside the office in alphabetical order of your last name.

Monday, March 9:

* **Loose Threads Sewing Studio**, 2-5pm.

***Our UCW will have their regular monthly meeting** at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium. The program will be presented by TanJay, women's fashion store. They are bringing in a rack of new spring arrivals, and will show how they can be mixed, matched and coordinated with accessories. They will also bring some coupons along. New members are always welcome.

Tuesday, March 10: Pleasant View Towers Worship Service conducted by members of the men's club. Volunteers please meet at 1:30 in the chapel to plan the congregation pick-ups; new volunteers are always welcome!

Wednesday, March 11: Our Friendship Group meets, starting with lunch at 1pm.

Thursday, March 12:

***Lenten Study Program, week 2 of 5: 'Signs of Life: Why Church Matters'** in the Youth Chapel at 10:30am. Please contact Susan (722-1881, ext. 204 or susan@stjamesuc.org) to register; course materials will cost \$5.

***Lenten Lunchtime Communion Service** at noon in the Youth Chapel.

Saturday, March 14:

***Ukelele class, 1:30pm** in the Youth Chapel;

* **Contemporary Worship Service, 4:30pm.**

Sunday, March 15: Our guest choir at the 11am Worship Service will be Newfound Sound Women's Barbershop Chorus, who will be performing in celebration of International Women's Day.

St. James Annual Congregational Meeting is next Sunday, March 15, following the morning Service to receive the 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Budget.

A big thank you to all who are responding to our plea to keep our Auditorium, Fellowship Room and Youth Church floors salt free. Keep up the good work!

Correction to last week's Life & Work: The pancake batter for our Pancake Supper was donated by Clifford Small of Smitty's Restaurants.

This afternoon, last in the series of The Seniors Memory Mug Up at The Market at 2pm. This is a free and informal story sharing session for seniors, where people gather, have a cup of tea, and share memories in the Community Room at the St. John's Farmers' Market, 245 Freshwater Road.

Eleventh Annual Memorial Service for Cougar Flight 491: Thursday, March 12 at 7pm at Elim Pentecostal Tabernacle, Kenmount Road, with reception to follow in the adjacent Parish Centre. For more information, please contact Chaplain Christopher Fowler, 699-2481.

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

THE END