

Life and Work – August 15, 2021

We gratefully acknowledge the following donation to the Memorial Fund:

*In Loving Memory of Harvey Hilliard from Paul, Gail, Julia, and Alan Hamilton

St. James Policy on masks in the building - August 15, 2021

Worship and other services:

Masking will continue to be required at worship services until you are seated; and required when singing and when moving around the building or exiting the building. This decision is made out of respect for our children, and others attending worship, who may not be either fully vaccinated or unable to be vaccinated.

We will continue to require pre-registration for our worship services and all other events taking place in the building until the need for physical distancing and contact tracing has passed, as defined by the Chief Medical Officer of Newfoundland.

Office:

Visitors will be asked to wear a mask until given permission to remove their mask by the staff person they are visiting. Staff in the office will monitor themselves as is necessary. They will be free to remove their mask while working in the office, if they are comfortable to do so.

REMINDER: Any change in the mask restrictions does NOT change the need to sign in and out of the building, or to continue to practice physical distancing while in the building.

In both the above policies we must recognize that should our (St. James) policy, or provincial policies change, we could revert back to stronger measures at any time.

Contact Info for Rev. James Ravenscroft:

He can be reached by email at james@stjamesuc.org OR by calling the office at 722-1881 ext. 202. The office hours are 10am-2pm Mon-Fri. If it is outside office hours you can still call the office and choose our staff directory (# 1), and Rev. Ravenscroft's extension is 202 and you can leave a message for him.

Calling all green thumbs: Do you have a lovely houseplant that is tolerant of lower light conditions that would also be the type that you can take a clipping from to grow a new plant? If so, (Rev.) James and Glen are looking for clippings of houseplants to green up their new home. You can reach James at james@stjamesuc.org or on his phone: 351-0983.

The United Church of Canada is making funds available to support the work of Indigenous communities for the identification of unmarked graves, knowledge gathering, and ceremony to honour the children who did not return home from its 15 residential schools. This is an act of reparation and responds to Calls to Action 73–76 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

“The United Church of Canada was an active participant in a system that ripped Indigenous families apart by forcibly removing the children from their homes,” says the church’s Moderator, Richard Bott. “We have written to Indigenous leaders of the communities where 13 United Church-run residential schools were located, and in the case of the other two, communities whose children were taken there. We have let them know that we have made funds available so that the work of bringing home the children does not solely rest on their shoulders. We played a critical role in this and we as a church need to be more action focused in our commitment to reconciliation.” The Moderator also released a wider statement to the residential school survivors, their families, and communities.

A special meeting of the General Council Executive on July 20th, 2021 approved three million dollars to fund this work, which also includes archival research and providing communities access to documents. The United Church turned over all its existing records to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Commission and continues to send records that come to light. The General Secretary, Rev. Michael Blair, notes, “Our history as settlers is a ‘we can fix this’ attitude. Clearly, we have been very wrong. We need to listen before we act, and support communities as they define their needs.”