

Life and Work – September 12, 2021

We offer our condolences to Alice Forsey on the passing of her sister-in-law Joan Forsey on Sept 5, 2021.

Worship Notes: Over the last few weeks since Rev. James arrived, you will have noticed the addition of poetry and other types of readings as part of worship. This practice is rooted in Methodist tradition, namely that in addition to the Bible, John Wesley held that Christian teaching should be based not just on scripture but also tradition, experience, and reason. While the bible is still our primary source of teaching, including readings/poetry in worship honors how God speaks to us in many ways. Practically it also gives us some flexibility in shaping worship services. Note as well that the scripture selections from the Revised Common Lectionary still take pride of place in the service. In addition to there being two readings for a given Sunday, Rev. James often bases the Call to Worship on the psalm of the day.

Book Group - Would you enjoy exploring the Biblical Creation Stories? Come join our book group!

This is a 5-week study of Donald Schmidt's "Creation for Progress Christians" starting in early October. The group will meet Monday evenings from 8pm - 9pm via Zoom. Susan Sheppard will be ordering the books on Saturday, September 18, 2021, so please connect with Susan before then if you would like her to order you a paper copy for \$12.50. E-books are available through Woodlake Publishing.

Susan Sheppard's contact info: Phone: 722-1881 ext 204
Email: youthchurch@stjamesuc.org

Forest Church Autumn Equinox Service – *** Note the date ***

This will take place on Sunday, September 19, 2021, at 2:00pm in Susan Sheppard's garden. Please connect with Susan for directions.

Phone: 722-1881 ext 204 Email: youthchurch@stjamesuc.org

UCW will be holding its first meeting since the onset of the pandemic - It will take place on Monday September 13th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM (note the time change). COVID restrictions will be observed. A number of changes have been made in the format of the meeting. Members will be receiving a phone call with more specific information before the meeting. We hope to see many of you there and look forward to meeting again.

St. James United Church is seeking an Associate Music Director

Primary responsibilities: senior choir direction, (including selection of music), weekly choir practice and preparing for Sunday morning worship services, assist with the selection of Choral Scholars based on the needs of the senior choir, and provide back up to the Director of Music as required.

Preference will be given to a student/graduate of the MUN Music School, especially those interested in Choral Conducting. To acquire further information or to apply for this position please contact the church office at 722-1881 extension 200 OR email your resume to info@stjamesuc.org. The closing date for this position is Friday, September 17, 2021.

Celebrating Creation Time - Season of Creation is a five-week church season that concludes with Thanksgiving here in Canada.

First celebrated as a four-week season in Australia in 2000, the inspiration to set aside time to pray for the natural world hearkens back to 1989 when Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed September 1 as a day for members of the Orthodox Church to pray for creation.

Since then, this season has been adopted by more and more churches, becoming fairly common in United Church congregations over the last ten years. Given the increasing volatility of the weather due to human-caused climate change, it is more crucial than ever that we take time to give thanks for creation as well as to consider what we can each do to help protect this planet for future generations.

Gower Street United

Stand Up for Palestinian Children's Rights Vigil - Join us on September 17th, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Sanctuary Entrance to Gower Street United Church. The United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel asks that the Canadian government appoint a special envoy to investigate what is happening to Palestinian children, including their arrest by armed soldiers in the middle of the night.

If you cannot join us at the vigil, the UNJPPI is soliciting a letter a month from people across Canada to Minister Marc Garneau, and their own MP focused on the appointment of a special envoy. You can participate by signing up at this link (<http://eepurl.com/htSZpb>) and we will send you a template letter you can adapt.