

## Life and Work - February 19, 2023

**We offer our Condolences to:** Donna Blackwood on the passing of her mother, Evelyn Blackwood, on February 11, 2023. Funeral Service from Oram's Funeral Home, Dover, NL, on February 15, 2023.

**Office Closure:** A reminder that the office at St. James will be closed on Friday, February 17, 2023 and will reopen on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> for regular office hours.

**Headed out on holiday:** (Rev.) James and Glen have headed off on holiday until February 21. Rev. Miriam Bowlby will be leading the 11 am worship service on Feb. 19, Susan Sheppard will be leading the 7 pm EvenTide service and together with Rev. Rebecca Pike will be covering any pastoral emergencies.

**Pancake Supper:** will be held on Tuesday, February 21 at 6pm. Come enjoy all the favourites, pancakes, berries, beans and sausages, coffee, tea and juice for just \$10 per person (12 years and under \$5). Tickets are now available for purchase at the church office. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

**Book Group on Zoom:** For those joining the Book group this week, please read the introduction and Chapter 1 for Thursday Feb 23rd at 7:30. Please contact Susan [susan@stjamesuc.org](mailto:susan@stjamesuc.org) for the zoom link. Book: John Philip Newell's *Sacred Earth Sacred Soul, Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening to what our Souls Know and Healing the World* (2021).

**Wild Light Spiritual Oasis:** will meet on February 25 at 2pm. Place to be determined.

**NOTICE:** St James United Church Annual Congregation Meeting will be held Sunday March 12 at 12:45 pm in the Sanctuary., following a short lunch. in the auditorium. Annual reports will be sent electronically the week before the meeting. Paper copies will be available for those who require them. on March 5th.

**A Penitential Beginning to Lent:** A traditional way to begin Lent is to gather for prayer on Ash Wednesday, during which a cross in ash is traced on people's foreheads (or hand). This practice can be traced back to the biblical association between ashes and sorrow for sin. Ashes are also like soil and so invite us to consider how we come from the earth. While we associate this with more liturgical denominations, Ash Wednesday services are increasingly common in the United Church. We encourage you to attend either the joint United Church Ash Wednesday service being hosted at 7 pm on February 22 by Cowan Heights United Church or to go to Memorial United in Portugal Cove as Susan leads a service there at 7 pm. You will also have a chance to receive ashes at the end of the 11 am service on Sunday, February 26.

**Reducing Paper Use for Lent:** Traditionally during Lent people will give something up. Increasingly, people link this practice reducing their carbon footprint. At St. James, we plan to do the same collectively during Lent by getting back on our paper use, including for worship at 11:00 am on Sunday mornings. To accomplish this, we will be using the overhead slides more thoroughly with all prayers and hymn texts projected, and with better resolution. We won't be going 100% paperless because many people need to use a bulletin, including the choir, but we encourage couples to share. The bulletin is also posted on the website so we invite you to access it through your smartphone.

**Reflective Wednesdays at Noon:** Beginning on March 1, the Wednesday after the First Sunday in Lent, (Rev.) James will lead an informal communion service followed by a Bible study focused on the readings for the upcoming Sunday.

**Men's Club Meeting:** Weather conditions forced the cancellation of our meeting scheduled for February 15. The Men's Club is now scheduled to meet March 1 with lunch served at 1:00 pm. The program will include a presentation by the Prostrate Cancer Support Group. Please inform Aubrey or myself if you know you are unable to attend.

**Sewing Studio** on Monday in Fellowship Room 7-9 pm. or at Memorial United, Portugal Cove 1-3pm. All sewers, knitters, needleworkers and crafters welcome.

**Come sing along with the Newfound Sound!** Come sing a river of song about harmony, friendship, hope and love! Newfound Sound Women's Barbershop Chorus, our province's only female barbershop chorus, invite guests who love to sing, to their practices **any Wednesday, 7 to 9 pm at St. James**. It's free to observe and to try singing a cappella (without music) in barbershop harmony! No training or experience needed. For details, visit [newfoundsound.org](http://newfoundsound.org); click on "Contact" and "Visit a Rehearsal". (Please note: Masks are required for singing. St. James is an accessible venue.) If you intend to come, please contact **Anne Hollett-Maher in advance at 764-6998** or [newfoundsound@hotmail.com](mailto:newfoundsound@hotmail.com), so we can tell you what to expect and prepare your sheet music. The chorus looks forward to meeting you!

**Bridges to Hope:** At this time of year, Bridges to Hope are finding themselves short in certain types of food donations at the food bank. The Board has decided to appeal to participating churches to ask their congregations to provide a specific item - a different item each month. For February, this item is Canned Beans. The hope is that a unified appeal will help supply many hampers with items that are considered "staples". All donations are gratefully accepted and can be brought to the Church or to Bridges to Hope. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

**Bridges to Hope Benefit Concert:** A Songwriters Circle Benefit Show in support of Bridges to Hope will take place on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Gower Street United Church. The show will feature Alan Doyle, Rachel Cousins, Kelly McMichael and Nick Earle. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased through the Bridges to Hope web site at: [www.bridgestohope.ca](http://www.bridgestohope.ca), or by calling 709-722-9225.

**Bridges to Hope Hamper Sunday:** Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> is Bridges to Hope Hamper Sunday. If you can please bring along non-perishable food items to be collected at our church on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Cash donations are also welcome. Electronic transfers can be sent to [info@bridgestohope.ca](mailto:info@bridgestohope.ca)

**Book Fair:** St. James will be having their first book fair on St. Patrick's Day weekend. More details will be released in the upcoming weeks. Meanwhile, we will be looking for donations of new and used books so now is the time to do some spring cleaning of your bookcases! Please do not bring them to the church as of yet - we will let you know when to drop them off. Thank you in advance for your support.

**First United Church - The World Day of Prayer Service 2023:** will be held at First United Church, Mount Pearl on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm. All are welcome!

**Teachers on Wheels tutor training workshop, March 11:** *Are you interested in helping others to improve their literacy or in helping non-English speaking immigrants to learn English (ESL)?* Then please volunteer for Teachers on Wheels! Due to increasing demand, they need more volunteer tutors! If you can speak, read and write English, you can be a tutor. The next

tutor training workshop is Saturday, March 11. For more information and to register, please contact Tom Dawe at 738-3975. Also view [www.teachersonwheels.ca](http://www.teachersonwheels.ca)