

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

February 2024

St. James U.C. 400 Burnhamthorpe Road.

416 622 4113



## Love God

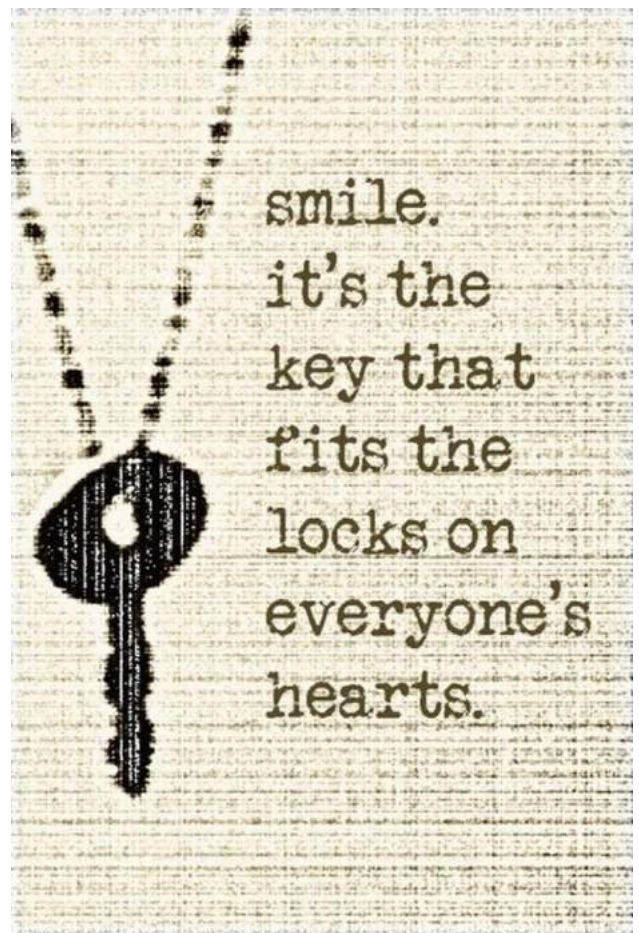
## Love your 'neighbour'

See Luke, Chapter 10: 25-37

“Being Whose Neighbour?”

Watch YouTube service Jan. 21

[www.stjamesunitedchurch.com](http://www.stjamesunitedchurch.com)



The graphic features the Tru Earth logo at the top center. On the left, a green circular badge contains the text 'JANUARY 4 DAYS ONLY!'. The main body of the graphic is blue and white, with the word 'EARN' in large white letters, followed by 'AN EXTRA 10%' in blue. Below this, a blue bar contains the dates 'Jan 28 - 31, 2024'. The largest text element is '30%' in blue, with 'FOR A TOTAL' in smaller blue letters to its right. At the bottom, a white bar contains the text 'Our fundraiser will earn 30% on every sale made through our Tru Earth Fundraising link.'

JANUARY  
4 DAYS  
ONLY!

TRU EARTH

**EARN**  
AN EXTRA 10%

Jan 28 - 31, 2024

**30%**  
FOR A TOTAL

Our fundraiser will **earn 30% on every sale** made through our Tru Earth Fundraising link.

**Here is your fundraising link to share**

**<http://tru-earth.sjv.io/stjamesunitedchurch>**

Be **very careful** to use this exact link to be a part of the church fundraiser. COPY and SAVE for future use.

Please send this link to friends and family, near and far. Everyone in Canada can participate!

If you have any problems please contact me at [mhairi.godley@yahoo.com](mailto:mhairi.godley@yahoo.com)

**Happy Shopping, and enjoy using Earth-friendly, non-toxic products!**

## FAITH CHALLENGES AND TRANSITIONS ... by Tony Gray

It has been said that the song that we hear with our ears, is the song first sung in our hearts, searching our souls, and emanating from within.

Over the years, St. James United Church has blazed a stellar course in its musical gamut, and “LOVE GROWS HERE ” as sung by our Chancel Choir, exemplifies the soul of our congregation.

So it is, I have chosen to extrapolate from the first 3 stanzas, inserting my own creation, while adhering to the meter of the anthem, for stanzas 4, 5, and 6. **The metric rhythm of Stanza ( or verse ) #7 has been changed**, as I seek to challenge our congregation in our journey down the road ahead.

### LOVE GROWS HERE.....An adaptation.

“ Take a look around you,  
Tell me what you see,  
People here to worship the Lord..  
Just like you and me.

(Now) some of (them) are lonely,  
(While) some have many friends.  
Some lives, just beginning,  
Others near their end.

Yet, we come together,  
Knowing He is near,  
Once again reminding us  
That LOVE GROWS HERE.

So we go to **meetings**,  
PLANNING year to year.  
PLANNING for our future  
For LOVE GROWS HERE.



And we come to **worship**,  
Sending God a **prayer**.  
PRAYING for our future  
Since LOVE GROWS HERE.

Then with voices singing,  
Crescendo in the air.  
PRAISING God, our Maker,  
As LOVE GROWS HERE.

If you hold this church most dear,  
Take the time to show you care.  
Take the time to **VOLUNTEER**.  
Do it now! Make love stay here!

It will be only as we make it.  
Keep the faith.

Tony Gray



## Sunday School News from Karen Forgrave

Our Sunday School students created Christmas Tray Favours (Santa napkin holders) that were completed on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School. They were delivered to seniors at Eatonville Care Centre who were not able to make it home over the Christmas holidays. Nancy Cormier, who works there, said that our special crafts brought smiles to people's faces! They were much appreciated – so thank you to all of the children and youth who worked together to make them! It is wonderful to share joy with others!



Photos of students working together cutting felt, and gluing on eyes and pompoms to make the Santa Napkin Holders.

For the next month in Sunday School, we will be learning about Jesus Calling His Disciples. The students are enjoying fishing-related computer workshop activities and games (as we learn about being "fishers of people") and are creating fish-shaped pizzas in the Cooking Workshop with toppings to represent each disciple (e.g., Pepperoni for Philip; Mozzarella Cheese for Matthew, etc!).

We are also learning sign language to accompany a song that we are going to present to the church near the end of February - stay tuned!

# February Highlights

## **Sundays:**

January 28. Guest Minister Rev. Alexa Gilmour

February 4. Black History Month. Guest Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith

Feb. 11. Transfiguration Sunday. Rev. Richard Choe. After church-  
Chinese New Year Lunch at The Mandarin at 1255 The Queensway.

Sign up by Feb. 4

## **Mondays:**

Reiki 1p.m.- 2 p.m.

19th - Family Day Holiday - Office Closed

## **Tuesdays:**

Reiki - 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Euchre -13th and 27th Lounge 1:30 - 4 p.m. \$5

## **Wednesdays:**

Yoga 10:45-11:45 a.m. Lounge. \$20

Food Basket 1 - 4:00 p.m.

14th - Ash Wednesday -The beginning of Lent

## **Thursdays:**

Choirs Practise - Seniors 7:15 p.m. Chancel 9 p.m.

## **Fridays:**

ESS exercise classes 9:30 - 1:00

23rd - Family Games Night

**Saturday February 24.** Save the date!

**Listening Circle Planning Meeting** - details later

## Precious Gifts



### What is kindness?

"Kindness is more than deeds. It is an attitude, an expression, a look, a touch. It is anything that lifts another person," — Plato

Kindness is a language in itself.

"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see"  
 — Mark Twain

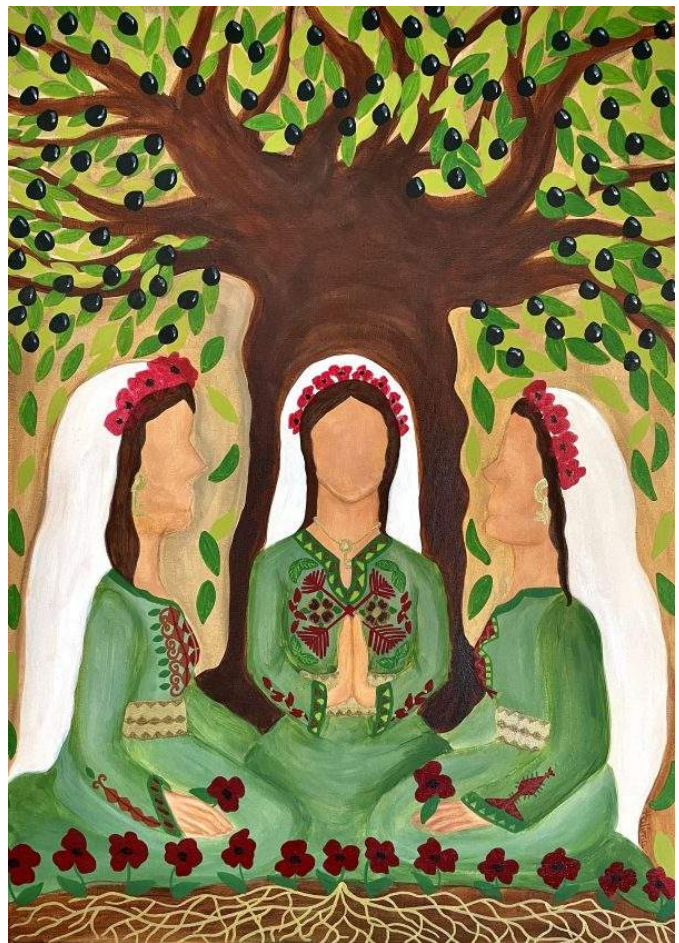
With kindness, on even the darkest days, we can know that,  
 "...There are magical, beautiful things in the world. There's incredible acts of kindness and bravery, and in the most unlikely places, and it gives you hope." — Dave Matthews

## World Day of Prayer

Mark Your Calendar – **2024 World Day of Prayer Service will be held Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**. St Philip’s Ev. Lutheran Church, 61 West Deane Park Drive, Etobicoke will be our host. Time still to be determined.

Last year, thanks to the support of so many of you, St James very successfully hosted the first live World Day of Prayer in our area since 2020. We joined with over **1.5 million** Christians, speaking **90 different languages** in **150 countries**, who came together in spirit, bridging social, geographic, and political barriers, to unite to pray for relevant issues affecting women and children in Taiwan. Together, each year as a different country is highlighted, we pursue justice, peace, and reconciliation by standing together in prayer and action.

Offerings received through the World Day of Prayer services transform our prayers into action in the form of **project grants** empowering women and children in Canada and throughout the world. All regions share in the grants, with consideration given to greatest need.



Five years ago the International Committee invited the ecumenical Palestine WDP Committee to write the service for 2024 based on the theme “**I beg you ... bear with one another in love**” (Ephesians 4: 1-3.). A message with even more relevance during the devastating conflict and humanitarian crisis taking place right now in these holy lands.

**Submitted by Linda Maw**



