

*News from the Pews*

*January 2025*



*St. James United Church. 416-622-4113*

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

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StJamesEtobicoke>

## *The Christmas Candlelight Carol Service*

What a wonderful service! If you missed it, or want to relive the experience, go to our YouTube Channel for December 15 at 7:30 p.m. (see above)

Music Director Adrian Marchuk and the St. James Choir



Organist / pianist Jacqueline Sadler



Soprano soloist Taline Ickhanian



Drums Geoffrey Alan Bruce. Guitar Steve John Dale

St. James Choir. December 15, 2024



Congratulations to everyone who participated in the wonderful candlelight carol service on Sunday December 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Especially our amazing Music Director **Adrian Marchuck.**

# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church of Canada

The United Church was created on June 10, 1925. Centennial celebrations are being held already and will be held throughout 2025.

How shall we celebrate? Do we want to invite nearby churches to celebrate with us? Do we want to honour our history with music and food?



There are grants available to cover the costs of an event.

Some recent successful grant

applications from

across the country include an intercultural music exchange; centenary worship and dinner; a radio play about Three Pines, in Louise Penny's books – to try to take people back to the 1920s; mass choir events; and a homecoming event from the Saturday pancake breakfast, to Saturday banquet to Sunday worship.

Do we want to refurbish our labyrinth?

What ideas do you have? We can fund ideas by ourselves or apply for a grant from the United Church Foundation. Please send your ideas to Marie Truelove, [marietr@rogers.com](mailto:marietr@rogers.com)

## From the United Church Faithful Footprints

### December Newsletter

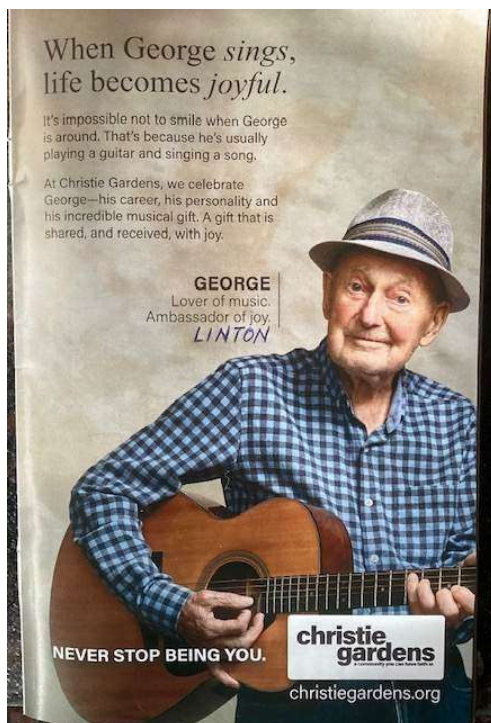
Faithful Footprints and energy efficiency with the Church Property Network

### St. James United Church (Etobicoke, ON)

Received a grant to conduct an ASHRAE Level II Energy Audit; replace 12 single-pane windows in the basement with ENERGY STAR windows; and upgrade lighting in its Fellowship Hall with LEDs. **A year following their projects, St. James United reduced its source energy use intensity by 3.5%, total GHG emissions by 21.7%, total GHG emission intensity by 21.9%, electricity usage by 2.2%, and natural gas usage by 23.1%.**

(ED. Many thanks are due to the property committee for their huge efforts to reduce our carbon footprint by 80% in line with the Paris agreement.)

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We went to see THE LION KING at the Princess of Wales Theatre yesterday, and in the program we spotted a familiar face from the church. No, not Mufasa or Simba. Surprise! It was George Linton who resides at Christie Gardens. It was a nice little write up on our own nonagenarian.

Submitted by Ben Skopiwsky

# Some January Events

Tuesdays - 14th and 28th - Euchre. Visitors welcome!

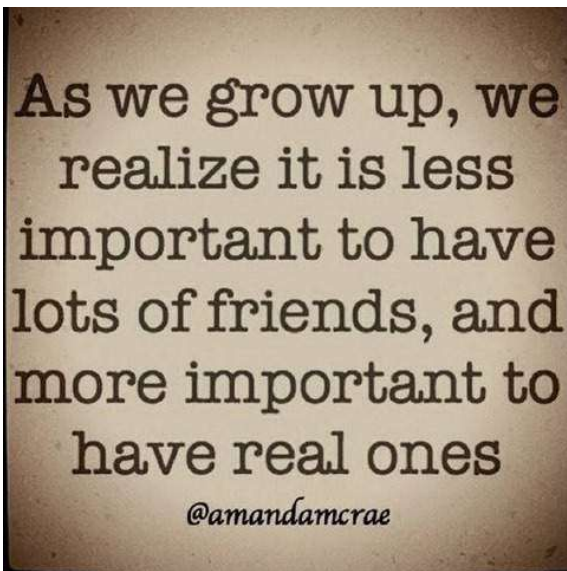
Sunday 12th - Sunday School resumes

Sunday 26th - Membership Care Chilli Lunch

## **Truth and Reconciliation Committee: Calls to Action**

30. We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade, and to issue detailed annual reports that monitor and evaluate progress in doing so.

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Friends brighten your day!

## Do these look familiar?

If you took home soup in these containers, (from the December 1<sup>st</sup> luncheon) please return the containers to the church office!

Thank you!



## Las Posadas

This St. James Christmas Eve tradition was brought to us by a family from Mexico (they have since moved to Quebec, but we continue to enjoy this tradition). In Mexico, Las Posadas (“the inns”) is celebrated leading up to Christmas Eve. People are led through the streets by children dressed up

as Mary and Joseph, and they knock on doors and are told there is “no room” until they reach the pre-arranged last house, where they are welcomed in. At that house, there is a party, complete with piñata that is broken open and shared.



We worked together in Sunday School over three weeks to paper mache and then decorate our giant piñata for Christmas Eve this year.

After the Christmas Eve service, many children and

some adults got a chance to swing at the piñata, before it finally cracked open and children rushed in to grab some candies – which they were encouraged to share with others! 😊



## Family Games Nights Resume!

Bring a new card game or board game that you got for Christmas! Family Games nights resume on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 9pm.

Free family fun for all ages!

They will continue on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month:

**Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup>**

## “Life After High School” Event



Thank you to our “Sunday School alumni” who returned to talk to high school youth about their university experiences on Wed. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. We had 9 post-secondary students from St. James, Islington, and Royal York Road United Churches come to talk about their programs. Urban Planning,

Journalism, Translation, Commerce and Environmental Science were represented at a variety of schools, including Queen’s, Waterloo, York and TMU. It was exciting to hear about students’ adventures and to hear about their future school, work and career plans.

**Submitted by Karen Forgrave.**

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**The deadline for *News From the Pews* February 2025 is  
Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**