

News from the Pews

May-June 2025



Pope Francis: Ecumenical Prophet of Mercy

He dedicated himself to humility and to reforming the church.

With the rest of the world, we mourn his passing.

St James United Church

400 Burnhamthorpe Rd. M9B 2A8

416 622 4113

www.stjamesunitedchurch.com



May is PAR Month

Here's a suggestion for those of you looking for money or your cheque book on Sundays:- Switch to P A R - Pre Authorized Remittance.





Matty in the church office can help you to fill out a form so that the amount of your choice is automatically taken from your bank account each month. So easy, and you can relax and enjoy the Sunday Services!

BROADWAY BIOGRAPHIES
THE STORIES
BEHIND THE SONGS
YOU LOVE

A Whole New World

THE MUSICAL MAGIC OF ALAN MENKEN

CONCEIVED AND DIRECTED BY **ADRIAN MARCHUK**
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY **JACQUELINE SADLER**
PRODUCED BY **ADRIAN MARCHUK AND BRIAN GOLDENBERG**

THOM ALLISON **KELLY HOLIFF** **MATTHEW JOSEPH** **MA-ANNE DIONISIO**

THURSDAY, MAY 1 7PM

ST JAMES UNITED CHURCH
400 BURNHAMTHORPE AVE
stjamesunitedchurch.com 416-622-1113

SUGGESTED DONATION \$25

FULL TOUR DETAILS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.GOLDENBERGPRODUCTIONS.COM

A dress rehearsal performance of Adrian Marchuk’s upcoming concert show, ***A Whole New World*** in the St. James sanctuary on May 1. This will be a really incredible show with performances by **Thom Allison** (*Ragtime, Priscilla Queen Of The Desert*), **Kelly Holiff** (*Frozen, Rent*), **Matthew Joseph** (*Rent*), and **Ma Anne Dionisio** (*Miss Saigon, Les Mis, Flower Drum Song*). Musical direction is by Jacqueline Sadler.

This is an amazing show for the entire family to enjoy.

March 29 - Matty's Bridal Shower
At Islington Golf Club

The Organizers with Matty- Lila, Lynn, and Nancy.



Photos by Carol Jones



It was so lovely to see
Philomena, Ruth and Betty
again!



Thank you

DEAR WOMEN OF ST. JAMES,
I WANTED TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE AND THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO CELEBRATED MY UPCOMING MARRIAGE TO MY FIANCÉ, ADRIAN, AT MY BRIDAL SHOWER. I WAS SO BLESSED TO SEE ALL OF YOU WHO WERE ABLE TO ATTEND. THANK YOU FOR ALL WHO SENT WISHES, CARDS, AND GIFTS. A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE LADIES WHO ORGANIZED THE EVENT AND MADE IT POSSIBLE. IT WAS TRULY A WONDERFUL TIME.

With love,
MATTY DECAROLIS



Snapshots by Mhairi



Curling

A St. James team managed to eke out a win after a very strong performance from several of other teams for the league championship with 148.5 points. Pictured below is the winning team of Richard Lindsay, Bruce Richardson, Brian Isard and Chiquita Thomson. The trophy is on display in the lounge.

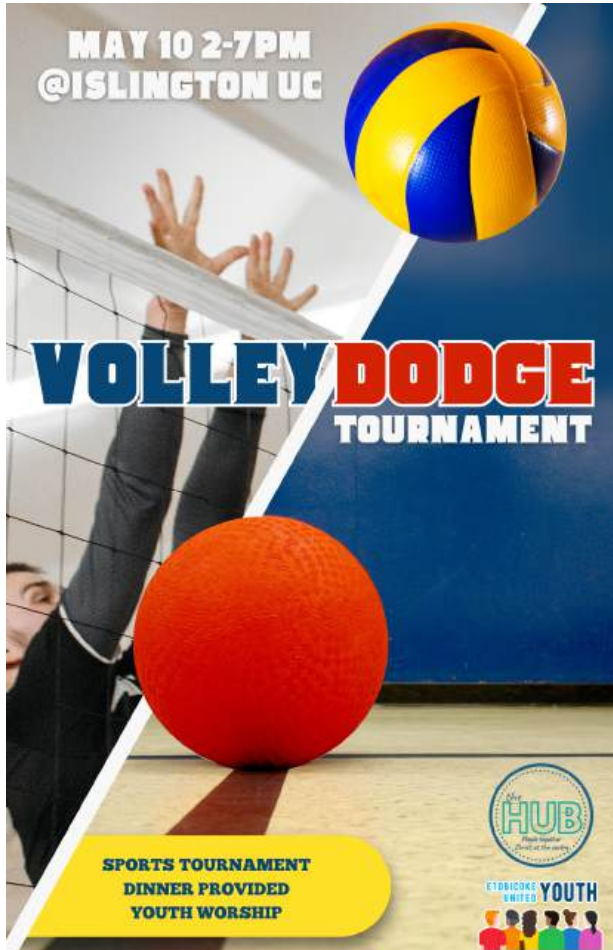


Other curlers in the league with familiar names are Bob Harris, Eleanor Harris, Clive Dunstan, John Beaton, Alex Grant-Henderson, Gord Burrell, Barb Holman, Randy Wilson. Candace Klufas, Danylo Klufas and Cameron Wilson.

Submitted by Brian Isard

Congratulations!

Youth Group



The Hub, a youth network generally in the KW area, is hosting a VolleyDodge Tournament here on May 10 from 2-7.

The event will include competing in teams playing dodgeball and volleyball, enjoying dinner together, and having a worship time in the evening. It's a full afternoon and we expect lots of united youth to be joining us! If you would like to participate, bring a team from your church! If you don't have enough youth to make a team, that's okay all are welcome and we can make teams when we arrive.

Submitted by Karen Forgrave

Joyce and Randy Wilson wish to announce that on Tuesday April 22nd, their daughter Kathleen and her husband, Sean Spiers, welcomed into this world their first child, a son, James Wilson Spiers. James tipped the scales at 7 lbs. and 6 oz. Mother and baby are doing exceedingly well. **Congratulations all!**

Live or You Tube

Are you **still** watching the service on You Tube?



If you are then you're missing out on the energy of a great service! The Easter Service was a prime example of great energy and beautiful music. A mixture of traditional and contemporary music accompanied this service. WOW, I was awestruck in a very good way. What a great service! Come in person and feel yourself being uplifted with music and faith at St. James!

**Submitted by
Jennifer Ling**

The next **News from the Pews** deadline is
June 27th For July (and August?)

Palestine and Gaza - Submitted by Eileen McAuley

Below is a poem from an American poet (her father was Palestinian, and mother was American). I find it heartbreaking and real. I think of all the children in our community and our wider circles, and try to imagine what this would be like for them.

Since Palestine and Gaza has been a topic of prayer and reflection in our congregation, I hope it is not out of place.

Before I Was A Gazan

I was a boy
and my homework was missing,
paper with numbers on it,
stacked and lined,
I was looking for my piece of paper,
proud of this plus that, then multiplied,
not remembering if I had left it
on the table after showing to my uncle
or the shelf after combing my hair
but it was still somewhere
and I was going to find it and turn it in,
make my teacher happy,
make her say my name to the whole class,
before everything got subtracted
in a minute
even my uncle
even my teacher
even the best math student and his baby sister
who couldn't talk yet.
And now I would do anything
for a problem I could solve.

By Naomi Shihab Nye

MOBILE SHREDDING EVENT

St. James will be hosting our second shredding event on Saturday, May 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot. We hope you will spread the word about this event by posting one of our flyers in your building or at a local store, or by giving it to a small business owner who may need to discard paperwork (doctor, lawyer, engineer, accountant, real estate agent, etc.).

The cost is \$20 for the first box and \$10 for each extra box.



Papers will be shredded safely and securely on the truck right before your eyes. A signed certificate of destruction can be issued for proof of secure destruction. **Papers, photographs, documents, files, invoices can all be shredded without removing staples, paper clips, plastic protector sheets or rings.**

As well as raising funds for the church, this is an opportunity to provide a service for the local community.

We need volunteers!

To lift boxes from people's cars to recycling bins, to work at the cash table, to crush cardboard boxes, and to provide snacks for our volunteers.

Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway, or contact Marie Truelove at marietr@rogers.com

SATURDAY MAY 24

10am – 1pm

May and June Events

Thursday May 1st : 7 p.m.

“A Whole New World” Concert Dress Rehearsal Fundraiser (see p. 2)

Minimum \$25 donation

Saturday May 3rd: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Congregational Gathering - **The Faith of Our Future**

With Rev. Pegi Ridout

Sunday May 25th - Lunch and St. James Choir Concert -

‘Songs of Hope’

Tuesdays- May 13, 27 and June 10 and 24 - Euchre

1:30 p.m. in the lounge. Cost \$5

Friday May 23 - Family Games Night. 7p.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday May 24 - Shredding- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May 30 – June 1. Reiki II Training with Rev. Coral Prebble. \$399

Sunday June 8th: 2 p.m.

“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat” presentation.

Starring St. James young people and friends! Produced by Adrian and Kit

Sunday June 22nd - after church

Annual Congregational Picnic - Hotdogs, etc. and lots of fun and games!

July services will be at Richview U.C.

August services will be at St. James U.C.

Spring Browse and Buy Event a Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped to plan and organize this year's "Browse and Buy" event, held on Saturday, April 12th from 9am – 1pm. Thank you to everyone who donated items – we had a wide range of offerings, from beautiful jewelry to wonderful books and household items. Many people also enjoyed home baking, both at the café and at the Bake Sale table (which quickly sold out!). It was wonderful to see so many members of our St. James family and wider community who came to volunteer and to support the event by purchasing items. The event raised \$4,127.



In conjunction with the Browse and Buy, we were also running our "FUNDrive" which focussed on collecting gently-used clothing and soft items, such as towels and bedding. The Sunday School children delivered flyers in the neighbourhood, and many people from the community came to donate bags of items. We appreciate the support of Home Depot who donated a 24-hour truck rental. This allowed us to move all of the donated items, along with the leftover household items and books from the Browse and Buy, to the collection depot at Value Village on Dundas in Mississauga. They weigh the items

and give us money based on the total weight of each category (e.g., household items, clothing and soft goods, books). This event raised another \$462.45 for St. James. In total, the two events raised almost \$4,600. The events also promoted St. James in the community, as well as helping to keep items out of landfills and give them a new home this "Earth Month" Volunteers talked about the great teamwork and sense of excitement that was felt the morning of the Browse and Buy Event. It was a wonderful day to work together for St. James! Thank you to all who supported this event!



By Karen Forgave

SONGS OF HOPE

SPRING CONCERT

25 SUNDAY
MAY 400 Burnhamthorpe Ave

12pm - Catered Lunch 1pm - Performance

TICKETS \$40 lunch and concert

\$20 concert only

\$10 children 12 and under
lunch and concert

**In a time of unrest,
we sing songs of hope**

stjamesunitedchurch.ca (416) 622-4113

Thank you to all the people who have wished me a happy holiday. However, I will not be leaving until the day after this amazing concert! (I thought I would be too busy to edit NFTP in the few days before I leave!) I will see you all again after I return on June 20th.
Ed. Mhairi / "Varry"

June 22, 2025

The Picnic is Coming!



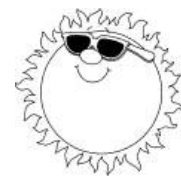
Hot-dogs and corn and chips....OH MY!
(And popsicles too?!!) WOW!

Remember to dress casually, bring a lawn
chair or blanket, and be ready to enjoy
some great food for lunch!



After lunch, there will be many games and
races for all ages (inside or outside,
weather depending)! Can you claim a
prize in the 3-legged race? What about
the sack race? We can't wait!

Dress for the weather!



Sunday School Updates by Karen Forgrave



The Youth Group Escape Room Experience was such a blast at the end of March that we tried an Easter Escape Room in Sunday School on Palm Sunday. Teams of students had to read clues and work together to solve puzzles about Holy Week. On Easter Sunday, we enjoyed dying Easter Eggs and going on a hunt for Easter treats, both inside and outside! Thank you to the Ankrah family for providing some yummy chocolates for us to find!



What's Up Next?

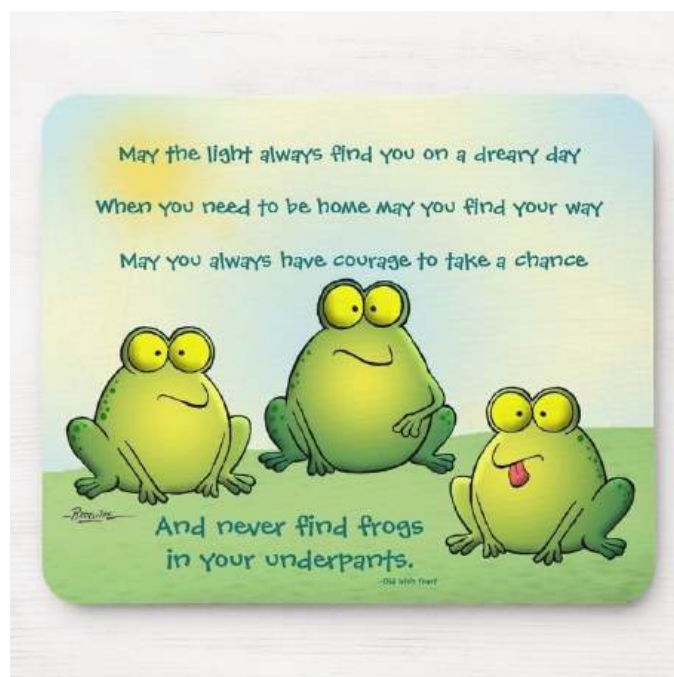
In May, we are learning the parable of the wise and foolish builders. Jesus talked about the wise man who built his house on the rock, and the foolish man who built his house on the sand. When the storms of life came the house on the rock stayed standing, while the house on the sand went “splat” (as our song goes!) ☺ Jesus was talking about what gives our lives a “firm foundation” – following Jesus’ teachings – loving your neighbour, growing your “fruit of the spirit”, etc. – these help us to have a good foundation when

things go wrong in life. We know we are supported, and are not alone. The students in Sunday School are having fun in three workshops – art, cooking and games over the next month. There are some neat engineering challenges happening in both the games and the cooking workshop – from constructing a newspaper tower to try to reach the ceiling, to creating houses out of rice krispie squares! Lots of creativity is evident!



The students in Sunday School will be working on a special “Mother’s Day project” for moms or grandmas on May 11th during Sunday School.

We are also looking forward to helping to create some props that will be needed for our Joseph production on June 8th!



THINGS TO BE GRATEFUL FOR:



Where do bad rainbows go?

To prism. It's a light sentence, but it gives them time to reflect.



Did you know...?

Dental professionals recommend REPLACING YOUR TOOTHBRUSH every 3 months

or more frequently if you have been sick or if the bristles start to look worn. This ensures the brush remains effective at cleaning your teeth and gums, and prevents the buildup of potentially harmful bacteria.

Don't throw it in the garbage!
Bring it to St. James to support our New Recycling Initiative!

We are collecting Crest and Oral-B toothbrushes, as well as empty toothpaste tubes and floss containers!

Please place the items in the box above the coat racks. They are recycled by a company called TerraCycle, and the church earns money for every pound we collect! Unfortunately, they cannot accept items from brands other than Oral-B or Crest.

There is another box for **ANY BRAND of disposable razor (or razor blades) and razor packaging.** Help us to keep these items out of landfills!

