

News from the Pews

September 2025



St James United Church
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Claire Lynch, singer



George Linton- 100th Birthday Bash at St. James

Our Dad, George Linton, who turned 100 years young on July 2, was feted at the church a few days later (Sat. July 5th) in a celebration in the auditorium. Many veteran St. Jamers turned out for the big do, as well as several old friends of Dad's and Mom (Peggy's) - as well newer friends of Dad's and current companion Virginia (Ginny's). Colleagues from the Globe and Mail – Dad's long-time employer – came out to wish him well. And, of course, members of the Linton clan – sister, brother, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and various hangers-on. Songs, poems, readings, and old stories were told amid a very festive atmosphere. Cakes and goodies were of course served. Dad presided over the shenanigans with his usual flair and aplomb:



George Linton presiding over his 100th birthday celebration wearing the traditional crown and sceptre with Ginny, and daughters Marion and Wendy. Jennifer Gray looking on. And one-third of Don Munday. Thanks to all at St. James for coming out and helping to make this a most enjoyable, memorable and festive occasion!

Jon, Wendy and Marion Linton

Matty and Adrian - Wedding of the Summer - August 9



Guests arrive

Groom and bestman wait

David escorts his mom



The Wedding Ceremony





Introducing Mr. And Mrs. Wallace

May God bless them abundantly

Afterwards, all the guests cooled off
with delicious ice creams!



Dreaming a Better World into Being

Published On: August 14, 2025

The United Church of Canada today released a renewed declaration of its commitment to justice, peace, the integrity of Creation, and the flourishing and well-being of all peoples and the world. “Dreaming a Better World Into Being: For the Sake of God’s Beloved World” stems from a number of decisions made this week at General Council 45 in Calgary, Alberta. Held from August 7–11, General Council saw United Church members from across the nation unite in faith and reflection on the church’s path forward, joined by global, ecumenical, and interfaith partners.

The church raises its voice to call for urgent action on peace and justice issues internationally, especially with regard to the ongoing genocide and humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, as well as the violence and violation of human rights in many parts of Latin America and lasting tensions on the Korean peninsula.

“As a Christian denomination, The United Church of Canada holds firmly to the promise of a better world, where human rights and dignity for all are upheld and where all have abundant and flourishing life,” the statement reads. “As Christians, we cannot remain silent in the face of oppression, injustice, and violence. This is what we believe and therefore what we proclaim to the world.”

UCC - United Church of Canada

Our terrific Property Team has been busy over the summer!

The New HVAC Unit Project

It was a long process to figure out what was the best fit for a new furnace and cooling system for our church in an effort to improve energy efficiency and help reduce our carbon footprint. We spent well over one hundred man hours evaluating this project. The evaluation team consisted Don Munday, Al Graham, Norm Da Costa and Brian Isard. We first evaluated using heat pumps and consulted extensively with Trinity United Church in Ottawa to see what their experience was with heat pumps. Based on Trinity United's experiences they recommended we conducted a test to see if our boiler system could heat the sanctuary using heat pumps in extreme cold weather and determined this was not viable option. We also had an engineer conduct ahead of heat /loss calculation for the church building.

The problem is the size of our sanctuary which is around 65,000 sq.ft. with its high ceiling. Due to the complexity in heating /cooling such a large space with a heat pump option and indications from the test that we will need to add in a third supplementary heat system to support the heat pump in extreme cold weather.

We also found out that the type of gas fired furnaces that we could install on the roof was severely limited due to the older type of electrical supply we have in the church.



On July 7th a new Reznor gas fired, ducted furnace blower unit for heating and air make-up to provide heating and cooling to the sanctuary and surrounding spaces in the church building was installed. This new unit is 80% thermal efficient and during the installation we upgraded the insulation on all of our exterior duct work to achieved the best possible arrangement to both improve our energy efficiency and reduce gas usage. The new unit was installed by McMechanical, a mechanical contractor using a crane to remove the previous 20 year old HVAC roof top unit and replace at a cost \$46,630 plus tax. This purchase was largely funded by funds the church received from the Daily Bread Food Bank as part of their efforts to help in the continued operation of the St.James Food Basket.



Another issue: - Emergency repairs to the front entrance pillar were required when the soil underneath the pillar was washed out and the pillar tipped over. This gave the daycare families and other church users very real cause for concern when entering the building.

The property committee put in a support structure while we located a someone to do the repairs.

Murphy's Masonry, a local contractor was able to:

- Demo the existing right side pillar down to grade
- Excavate below grade down 4 feet
- Pour a new 6-8 inch thick concrete footing with rebar (new footing to be at least 8 inches wider all around than the existing column)
- Build back up to grade with 8 inch cinder block and fill with solids
- Rebuild the column above grade back to existing height using the reclaimed and new bricks
- Match mortar colour as close as possible to the rest of the building

This work cost \$9000 and was an un-budgeted expense for the 2025 fiscal year.

Submitted by Brian Isard

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Brian Isard, Norm DaCosta, Al Graham and Don Munday. Thank you all!

Thank you to the wonderful gardening team, which has been busy all summer long weeding and watering and generally keeping our lovely property looking beautiful in spite of the extreme heat and lack of rain earlier. See the front page also!



PUBLIC GATHERING HONOURING THE NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION AT THE *CAMPFIRE* SCULPTURE, HUMBER BAY SHORES PARK-Sept. 30 Noon

THE TRUTH ABOUT RECONCILIATION IN 2025

- **10 YEARS SINCE THE TRC'S FINAL REPORT**
- The *Campfire* sculpture is located at the end of Palace Pier Ct, just west of the Humber River along the Martin Goodman Trail. It is a short walk from paid parking and public transit stops along Marine Parade Dr. Carpooling encouraged. Please wear an orange shirt. Bring your own chair if needed.
- **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 AT 12:00 PM**
INFO@ECULINKS.CA. ,KAIROSTORONTOWEST@GMAIL.COM
- **ALL ARE WELCOME**
- **GUEST SPEAKER: MISSISSAUGAS OF THE CREDIT FIRST NATION CHIEF CLAIRE SAULT**



Join us for... 2025 GAMES NIGHTS!



Fun for Adults!
Fun for Youth!
Fun for Families!

TIME: 7:00– 9:00pm

Last Friday of the month:

Friday, September 26th

October – Halloween event– date TBD!

Friday, November 28th 7-9pm

MORE INFO? Family-friendly, all ages welcome - bring your favourite board game, or come without. Come and join in a group around a game that appeals to you! Friends are welcome!



Questions?

Contact

karen_forgrave@hotmail.com

**Fun for
EVERYONE!**

UPDATE: Delta Bingo & Gaming

After working on various stages of our application since the AGM in March, St. James has now received permission (from the City of Toronto) to raise money by having members volunteer at a Delta Bingo and Gaming location. We are now approved to volunteer at the **new Delta facility on Evans Ave in Etobicoke** (just east of Kipling). We will begin there in **January 2026**.

We expect to get two shifts per month, with each shift being for 2 volunteers to be at the location for 2-2.5 hours. For these two shifts, it is expected that the church will get up to \$4,000 to \$5,000 per month. I believe these shifts can be any day, any 2 hours from 9 a.m. to midnight, so if you volunteer we need to know your availability. The schedule is set every month. All volunteers must be at least 18 years of age.

Volunteer Roles:

- Welcome guests as they arrive and thank guests for supporting their charity as they depart
- Circulate the gaming floor to support customer service and assistance
- Assist players with info on programs, events, games, and promotions as needed
- Assist players as needed on the technology basics of the electronic gaming
- Assist staff with keeping the environment clean.

Volunteers will have online training (about 30 minutes) as well as training at the gaming centre.

The church will provide all volunteers with a collared shirt with our church's name on it. During your volunteer shift, you will also wear a name tag with your first name on it. Conservative, dark pants or skirts will be worn; no shorts; no hats; no flip-flops or crocs, etc.

In the meantime, we need to create a poster about St. James (to be displayed whenever we volunteer), get our uniforms, and compile a longer list of volunteers.

So, if you are willing to volunteer, there is still time!

Please contact Marie Truelove, marietr@rogers.com



CATCH UP WITH FRIENDS NEW AND OLD -
CHAT ABOUT YOUR SUMMER OVER ICE
CREAM AFTER CHURCH! WELCOME BACK!

DEADline for October NFTP - September 27th

September Events

Sundays - 7th. St. James regular services resume: come join us!

- 14th **Sunday School** begins J.K. - Grade 12!

- Also Ice Cream Sunday/Sundae

Tuesdays - Euchre on Tuesdays 9th and 23rd. 1:30 p.m.. \$5

Everyone welcome

Tuesday 30th - Orange Shirt Day gathering- Palace Pier Court, Noon

Speaker - Chief Claire Sault. (See p.10 above)

Thursdays - **Choir** Practice begins on Sept 4th. 7:25 p.m. to 9:30 pm

A great time for new singers to join! See below

Friday 25th - Family Games Night. Bring your friends! All ages.

SENIOR CHOIR STARTING

Come all singers and make a joyful noise to the Lord as part of our Senior Choir! Don't let the name fool you, this is a choir for singers of all adult and young adult ages. Love to sing? Come and join us on Thursdays from 7:25 - 9:30pm for rehearsal in the sanctuary. No experience or audition needed, and we sing a wide range of sacred and secular music across many styles and cultures.

We would love to have you join us! We need your voice!

Reach out to Adrian at adrianmarchuk@gmail.com for more info

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

Do you have a secret musical or artistic talent that you have yet to share with the congregation at SJUC? Do you play the guitar? Drums? Kazoo? Do you paint or sculpt or dance or draw? Can you whistle? Do you write songs?

In our goal of building up the 'priesthood of all believers', we want to add your talent and gifts to our worship at SJUC. Let's find out what you love to do and how we can make it a part of worship and special events at St. James.

Reach out to Adrian at adrianmarchuk@gmail.com for more info, or just tackle him at coffee hour.