

St. James Presbyterian Church, North Yarmouth

The little church in the fields

Fall 2024 Newsletter



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We have so many great things happening in our St. James community, we wanted to make sure people knew about them! We haven't had a newsletter for over 5 years and are working to get it running again.

Issues will be quarterly and available in hard copy and electronically. Do YOU have something you want to share? an upcoming event, or an update on a past event

Deadline for submissions for the January-March 2025 issue is Sunday, December 14th. Send your info and photos or any feedback to Andrea (andrea.fleischhauer@gmail.com) or Kent (kent.buchanan@gmail.com).

ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (ST-JAMES.CA) | STJAMESPCC@HOTMAIL.CA | [FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

WORSHIP SERVICES AT 9:30AM SUNDAYS

CONTACT REV. GORD BROWN, 647-969-0048 OR gordbrown48@rogers.com

CONTACT SHARON BUCHANAN, CLERK OF SESSION, 519-719-6686 OR stjamespcc@hotmail.ca

I know what you did last summer!



On July 28, we had a Quaker-style worship service outdoors at St. James. Quaker meetings are a simple gathering. Community members shared songs, stories and verse as they felt moved to do so. Thanks to all who participated.



Camp Kintail is a great place to spend time all year! Thanks to St. James for supporting families who send kids to summer camps like Kintail.



Big thanks to Tracy, Steve, Logan and Alexa for once again hosting a pool party to celebrate our Children and Youth! We shared in a BBQ and potluck, swam, and had some time to get caught up on our summer break.

Ministry Goals - 2025

St. James has been generously supported in recent years by grants from the Presbyterian Church in Canada through its Sustaining Ministries program. As part of our annual application, Session must list some goals that we would like to pursue in the upcoming year. For 2025, this is what we highlighted:

BE A HUB FOR OUR COMMUNITY: Begin implementing a plan for our outdoor space, currently being developed in Fall 2024, to better utilize our outdoor grounds and welcome the community to the property (i.e. picnic tables, amenities for passing cyclists, outdoor prayer space, etc.)

WORK TOGETHER AS CHRIST'S DISCIPLES: Work with another area church to jointly develop and deliver an impactful mission initiative in our community, responding to God's call to serve our neighbour. Intentionally involve church youth in leadership and planning to grow the budding passion for mission described in our mission story.

We are small in number but mighty in spirit – we have a variety of skills, a passion for working together, and an eye for the needs of our community. We acknowledge that as a small congregation that we can't do it all alone, nor do we have to. We are actively looking for individuals or groups that would like to partner on initiatives where we have common goals, helping our work have an outsize impact and be sustainable with the resources we have.

Pray for continued vision, resources and courage as we look towards serving our neighbours in the coming year!

Church School, Children and Youth Program Info

Our church school and youth programming is always evolving to accommodate our kids and families, and our wonderful volunteers. A survey of actively participating families and volunteers was completed in early September 2024, and below is a summary of our programming for our 2024-2025 year:

- **All-ages Church School Programming will be planned and offered on the 3rd Sunday of each month during worship time.** This allows families and caregivers to plan to attend, if they are able (i.e. Stone Soup with the Grace Café, Messy Church, special crafts/mission projects, etc)
- For ages 10-14: Programming will be planning for and offered on a consistent Sunday morning basis, given our known regular attendees needs and ages. We are trying out a new curriculum, and if successful will pursue purchasing for 1 year (starting October 2024).
- For ages 0-9: toys, books, and lessons will be available for younger children each Sunday, and for 6-9 year olds, a version of the lesson will be shared that is age appropriate
- If a leader is not available on a Sunday: Ad hoc activity bags will be available each Sunday if children and youth attend and no leader is present. Children may sit at the back of the sanctuary in the coffee area, or with their parents throughout the worship service.

Please feel free to reach out if you have questions, kind words or other feedback regarding our program, or if you'd like to support us! Andrea can be reached by phone/text 226-580-7405 or andrea.fleischhauer@gmail.com

See the Upcoming Events (page 5) for more info.

In the garden of... St. James...

Check out some handy work by our youth and other volunteers (Especially Brenda, Kayden and Spencer) that created a new meditation garden space on the St. James property! Thanks to all who contributed. The garden is part our implementation of the hard work and visioning of "New Beginnings".

PWA Update:

Thank you to all who made our yard sale on September 21 a success! We were able to raise over \$1,482 for St. James. We had a lot of fun meeting with neighbours, friends and family! When we all work together, great things happen.

Upcoming:

Looking for an easy dinner? Meat pies are available for pre-order. Pick up date is November 21st.

Lasagna Dinner and Game Night at St. James on Friday, November 15th! Get your tickets now.

Contact a PWA member for more information and interest in participating.

Brenda (dhomes1950@gmail.com) or Joan (joan.mansell@gmail.com)



A Journey for Hope



Presbyterian World Service & Development helps farmers and families around the world grow nutritious food and become resilient to a changing climate. Last year, over 41,000 people participated in PWS&D's food security projects in 9 low- and middle-income countries.

On **Saturday, November 2nd**, Presbyterians from our area will gather at Caradoc Presbyterian Church in support of these worthwhile projects, cycling, walking, or participating in indoor activities, in PWS&D's "Journey for Hope" fundraiser. The event runs from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM and includes a light lunch.

St. James has been very supportive of this event, formerly known as "Ride for Refuge", in recent years, and we are excited to help make this event a success! To participate, or to pledge a donation to the team, contact Kent at 519-691-6721.

More info at [Journey for Hope - Presbyterian World Service & Development](#)

Gift Basket Raffles

Our fall gift basket raffle is underway! Thanks to our Church School. Volunteers and generations donations for creating a beautiful fall basket. It can be yours! Raffle is Sunday, October 6th. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Purchase them on Sunday mornings from Church School participants, or contact Sharon for more information.

Can't participate this time? Keep your eyes open for our Christmas basket, tickets will be on sale in November/December.



Message from St. James Session:

Welcome to fall! St. James has been busy lately as can be seen throughout this newsletter. Session has spent time visioning and goal-setting for the year ahead. The PWA has been planning events and fundraisers including our fall yard sale in support of charities and groups in our community. The Board of Managers has been tending to the property. The Church School has been focusing on mission and leadership development with young people in our congregation. And everyone has been lending a hand - thank-you!

We are called to love and serve our neighbours, but the amount of need in our community can be overwhelming at times. Remembering the wisdom of Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, we look forward to what we can accomplish in the months ahead as we work together, with one another, and with other churches collectively.

We just want to say...

A very happy 61st Anniversary to Jon and Joan Mansel on October 12, 2024! Congratulations and we hope you find time to relax and enjoy each other's company!



St. James Upcoming events for Fall 2024

October

Wednesday, October 2nd: PWA meeting 10am (join via church phone line 226-213-4445)

Saturday, October 5th: Church Cleaning Bee 10am, come out and help us tidy up our space at St. James

Sunday, October 6th: Draw for the Fall Basket (tickets sold by Church School)

Sunday, October 13th: Bring in donations for Stone Soup

Friday, October 18th: Church School & Youth Stone soup prep at the Buchanan's, Join us at 6:30pm for chopping veggies and prepping for our Stone Soup Sunday. (Contact Andrea 226-580-7405 or andrea.fleischhauer@gmail.com)

Sunday, October 20th: A representative from The Grace Café, St. Thomas will be leading our worship service. Join the Church School for "stone soup" after worship (*note: Rev. Brown away on educational leave*).

Sunday, October 27th: Guest Speaker TBA – Rev. Brown on holidays

November

Saturday, November 2nd: Journey for Hope, a fundraiser for PWSD at Cardoc Presbyterian Church. Cycle, walk and fun activities for the whole family (contact Kent for more info kent.buchanan@gmail.com or 519-691-6721)

Wednesday, November 6th: PWA meeting 10am, at St. James

Friday, November 15th: Lasagna Supper and Games Night at St. James, 6pm - tickets can be purchased by contacting PWA members

Thursday, November 21th: PWA meat pie pick-up at St. James, Order in advance and pick up afternoon of Nov 21th. (contact PWA members to get your orders in)

December

Sunday, December 1st: Communion Sunday at St. James

Wednesday, December 4th: PWA Luncheon at St. James at noon. (Contact PWA members for more information)

Sunday, December 8th: Caroling Bus Tour – join us at St. James to board a school bus and spread some Christmas Cheer around the St. Thomas Area. We start with a pot luck after the worship service, and head off after that (contact Kent for more info kent.buchanan@gmail.com or 519-691-6721)

Saturday, December 21st: Church School and Youth Pizza & Christmas Movie Night @ Buchanan's

Tuesday, December 24th: Candle Light Service at St. James, 4pm Social Time and refreshments, 5pm service

Wednesday, December 25th: Christmas Day worship and communion at St. James, 10am

Note: St. James Session typically meets on the First Thursday of each month. If you have questions, concerns or information to share with session, please contact your Elder at any time to have that shared with session.

Elders: Sharon Buchanan - Clerk (stjamespcc@hotmail.ca), Kent Buchanan, Jay Burtwistle, Brian Lunn, Mariann Lunn, Brenda Patterson

October 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| | | 1 | 2 PWA Meeting | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Communion Basket Draw | 7 | 8 | 9 Devotional @ 7:30pm | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Stone Soup donations | 14 Thanksgiving | 15 | 16 Devotional @ 7:30pm | 17 Session meets | 18 Stone Soup Prep | 19 |
| 20 Stone Soup Service | 21 | 22 | 23 Devotional @ 7:30pm | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Guest Speaker | 28 | 29 | 30 Devotional @ 7:30pm | 31 | | |

November 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Journey for Hope |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 PWA meeting Devotional @ 7:30pm | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 <i>Remembrance Day</i> | 12 | 13 Devotional @ 7:30pm | 14 | 15 Lasagna Super & Games | 16 |
| 17 Church School | 18 | 19 | 20 Devotional @ 7:30pm | 21 Meat Pie Pick up | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Devotional @ 7:30pm | 28 | 29 | 30 |

December 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|--------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Communion | 2 | 3 | 4 Devotional @ 7:30pm | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Carol Bus | 9 | 10 | 11 Devotional @ 7:30pm | 12 | 13 | 14 Newsletter submission |
| 15 Church School | 16 | 17 | 18 Devotional @ 7:30pm | 19 | 20 | 21 Pizza/Movie Night |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Candle Light Service | 25 Christmas Service | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |