



ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH

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EASTER CELEBRATIONS for 2022

From Rev. Barrie's Corner

**Our Easter Journey – Brings Us, Up Close and Personal!
Special Blessings to You – The Easter People of this St. James Church
Family!**

The beautiful palm branches and foliage at the top of this page remind me that the manifestation of Springtime is just around the corner of April showers and May flowers! As we approach Easter of 2022, I will ask that you focus intently on the powerful message of "Resurrection and New Life" as created by Natalie Sleeth in her Easter Hymn "**In the Bulb There Is a Flower.**" (VU#703)

The words of verses one and three have inspired me for years.

1) In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

3) "In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

Human nature being what it is, we all have the potential to empower one another to remove the road blocks and face the challenges of the day. On that first Easter Week, from Mark 16: 1-5 we sense the anxiety and apprehension that those women were experiencing as they approached the tomb to anoint the body of their Lord. **"When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on that first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they**

went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. Here at St. James, we have had a large stone that has been preventing us and other people from engaging with our church family. This Boulder like-stone has been present in the form of complying with the guidelines and restrictions as presented by local health authority and the Province of Ontario, as we strived to follow the ever-changing COVID 19 Protocol Guidelines. This meant that for some of the time these past two years we were not even able to use our building. This meant that we had to try and conduct church life necessities utilizing Facebook, Zoom or internet technology. For many of us, including Barrie, this was very challenging! Some or all of these factors had the same effect as a stone blocking the entryway to a Significant Life Experience with our St. James Church Family. There is both a renewed interest and a creative energy field present, as we strive to roll away the stones that prevent us from moving forward one faithful step at a time! Let's work together to continue St. James' emergence and transformation and make these celebrations of Christ's Resurrection a reality for the people who come here on Sundays for worship, mid-week activities, fellowship and study groups. **Blessings upon each one of you, as we work together glorifying God's name this Easter, and honouring all of the people of God's Creation!**

Yours in Christ's Serving!

Rev. Barrie J. Bain

Special Upcoming Services

April 10th	10:30 am.	Palm Sunday Celebrations with Palm Branches
April 15th	10:30 am.	Inspirational Good Friday Service
April 17th	10:30 am.	Easter Sunday Celebrations with power point slides!
April 23rd	10:30 am.	First Sunday After Easter - Communion Service

Summer Services

St. James United, First Baptist and Old Windham United Church will share in July and August Summer worship Services this year.

Easter Offering Envelope

****The Stewardship and Finance Committee has provided this Special Easter Offering Envelope for your loyal financial support of the programs, support and ministry which this St. James United Church provides for the members of this church family and others in the Simcoe and surrounding area. There are many persons who look to St. James for safe space, family gatherings, Christian nurture and Hope for challenging times. Thank you for all that you do!**