

Gratitude Moment January 25, 2026

Hello. I'm Tom Weaver.

St. John's has given my wife Giselle and me much to be grateful for. My parents joined St. John's 30 years ago and we followed soon after. We found a warm, active, spiritual community whose values fit like a glove. St. John's welcomes all people and has an ever-growing number of missions that support church members, our community, and beyond. I won't list our missions, but current events always raise one or two to top of mind. Right now, I am mindful of our support for migrant workers and refugees. Giselle and I have also forged many cherished friendships through our shared activities at this church.

Our gratitude for St. John's increased two years ago when Giselle and I joined the bible study groups: Saturday Stuff for Guys and Bibles and Bagels for women. Bible study was new to us and our previous attempts on our own were not successful. In these study groups, we immediately felt welcome and comfortable. The mutual respect and lack of judgment make it easy to ask questions and offer opinions. We are very thankful for their patience.

Every second Saturday we discuss bible passages, their context and messages, and how those words touch us personally. Through these often freewheeling discussions, we learn from everyone: what the imagery represents, how a reading relates to other passages in the bible, such as prophecies and repeated phrases, and how the readings can improve how we interact with the world, and our relationship with God.

It is also a safe place to share the blessings, challenges, and worries of our lives. The caring and understanding from the groups help Giselle and me open our hearts and minds to God's love and healing power. Challenges and worries are lighter when shared with a supportive community and God.

We have since joined other church teams as we continue our faith journey. We are thankful our St. John's community helps us feel the peace of God's love. We strive to honour that love by better expressing it to the world through actions and prayers.