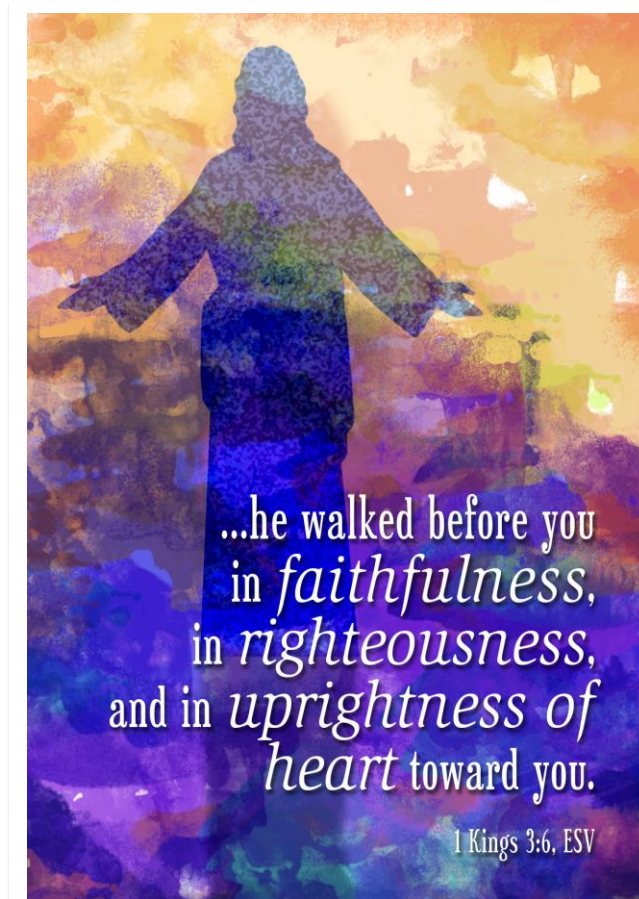


# St. James United Methodist Church

646 Daniel Webster Highway, PO Box 895  
Merrimack, NH 03054



Ministers: Rev. Lynne Mentzer and All the People!  
Director of Music: Darlene Skene  
Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 8:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Office Telephone: 424-7459 Parsonage: 424-2758  
Food Pantry: Donna Johnson 440-9597  
Church E-mail: stjamesmrmk@gmail.com  
Prayer Request E-mail: sjprayerchain@gmail.com  
Visit us on the web: stjames-umchurch.org  
Facebook: St. James UMC

Welcome to on-line worship from St. James United Methodist Church!

We are pleased to have you as part of our family of faith today and every Sunday.

Visit [www.stjames-umchurch.org](http://www.stjames-umchurch.org) and click on online worship at the top of the homepage. Turn your sound on and follow along with this bulletin. The announcements are at the end of the bulletin.

*The flowers which grace our altar this morning are given to the glory of God  
by Jim and Debbe Walter in memory of Ann and Bill Simpson.*

# 12th Sunday after Pentecost August 15, 2021



## GATHERING AS JESUS' DISCIPLES

GATHERING MUSIC

Darlene Skene

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

GREETING OF PEACE

INTROIT

Darlene Skene

## PRAYING AS JESUS TAUGHT US

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joyce Hawkins

L: King David was beloved by God, despite his human failings.

**P: This gives us hope.**

L: Solomon was blessed by God to be a wise ruler, despite his misgivings.

**P: This gives us courage.**

L: We too are beloved and blessed by God to be a blessing to others, despite our insecurities.

**P: This gives us vision.**

L: Come, let us worship God!

**P: Let us praise and serve the God of our past, present and future! Amen.**

HYMN

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing” No. 158

Darlene Skene

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice; before his throne rejoice;  
Praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;  
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet the Lord again: Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, today we consider young Solomon, praying for wisdom, and we wonder if we would have asked for the same thing. Maybe. Maybe not. Forgive our own human failings, misgivings, and insecurities. Grant instead the wisdom to pray for wisdom, that we might love, grow, learn and lead as followers of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joyce Hawkins and Rev. Lynne Mentzer

1 Kings 2:10-12 and 3:3-14 (*an adaptation from The Message*)

SERMON

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision" No. 451

Darlene Skene

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord:  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**SHARING THE BLESSINGS OF GOD**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.**

SHARING THE BLESSINGS OF GENEROSITY

Vacation Church Visits and Weekly Offering

DOXOLOGY

UMH No. 95

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious God, from whose hand all things are made and made possible, we thank you for all the blessings you've given us, and ask for your guidance in using these gifts to bless our neighbors, all to your glory. Amen.**

**GOING FORTH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

HYMN

"As a Fire is Meant for Burning" No. 2237

Darlene Skene

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,  
So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.  
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,  
We join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.  
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.  
By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light.  
In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the spring-time is a sign of life renewed,  
So may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hued.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,  
May our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

BLESSING

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

POSTLUDE

Darlene Skene

# Announcements–August 15, 2021



## Help Run Our Sunday Livestream

Kyle is looking for interested individuals who would be willing to run the Sunday livestream for any situation where he may be unavailable. Free training will be included with different options to match your tech skill level. Please email Kyle at [ksanborn.pro@gmail.com](mailto:ksanborn.pro@gmail.com) by August 20th if you are interested.

## Wearing Masks in Church

Taking into consideration the recent increase of COVID cases locally and statewide, the St. James Church Council voted to ask all congregants to wear masks to Sunday worship services regardless of vaccination status effective September 1. All other aspects of worship will remain the same - no reservations required, choose your own seat, and we'll still sing hymns. We also encourage everyone to get vaccinated for COVID-19 if you haven't done so already.

Groups that use our building will follow current COVID guidelines from their parent organizations (BSA, Girl Scouts, Red Cross, etc.)

## Refreshments Sign up for Coffee Fellowship

We need volunteers to make coffee and provide refreshments for fellowship time after Sunday worship. There is a sign-up sheet in the office hallway.

## Going on Vacation? Be Sure to Go to Church, too!

With the number of vaccines increasing, folks are happily planning long-overdue summer vacations once again. As in previous years, this year we're asking you to bring something back from your travels – a bulletin from a church you visited while away AND at least one good idea you picked up from your host congregation. We'll share bulletins and ideas during worship starting this month. May your time away refresh your spirit and expand our sense of community with sister churches.

## School Kits for UMCOR

We have started our annual collection drive of School Kits for **UMCOR**, United Methodist Committee on Relief. We will be collecting items to complete these kits throughout the month of August. Won't you please help by purchasing the items needed or by making a monetary contribution to pay for kits being assembled? Our greatest needs are 70 count one subject notebooks (3 needed for each bag). Other items include crayons, unsharpened pencils, pencil sharpeners (>1.5 inches), 30 centimeter rulers, blunt tipped scissors and 2.5 inch erasers. The cost to assemble the kits is \$3.30. A check can be made out to St James with a memo for "School Kits". If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Barb 494-1959.

## Summertime Conversation & Connection with Bishop Devadhar

Saturday, August 28 from 2-4 pm at Wanakee, 75 Upper New Hampton Rd., Meredith, NH. This in-person gathering will be an informal time for all in the Granite District to gather with the Bishop. Please bring a lawn chair as we hope to gather outside. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by August 25 on the Granite District website [www.neumc.org/GR](http://www.neumc.org/GR) and click on GRD Events and Meeting Links.

## Altar Flower Price Increase

Beginning with the first Sunday service in September, Merrimack Flower Shop will raise the price of our weekly altar flower arrangements from \$20 to \$25.

## Food Pantry Donations

If you would like to make a monetary donation to the food pantry, there are donation boxes at the two entrances to the sanctuary or send your donation by mail. Please make checks payable to the Merrimack Community Food Pantry. Food donations needed: Macaroni and cheese, jellied cranberry sauce, canned carrots, canned peas, rice, and personal care items such as shampoo, body wash, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

## Travel Opportunity: Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Join the New England Conference Episcopal Office on an 11 day Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, starting at \$3,098 from Boston, MA departing on February 14, 2022. Visit the Conference website [www.neumc.org/leadershiplearning/spiritualformation/holy-land](http://www.neumc.org/leadershiplearning/spiritualformation/holy-land) for more information.

**Note about passports:** For those of you considering making the pilgrimage but do not yet have a passport, please note that the regular application process for U.S. passports is taking up to six months. The expedited process is still an option, but is taking longer than usual as well. Also note that your passport should be valid for at least 6 months beyond your travel dates.

This Week's Events at St. James – August 15, 2021		
Today, Sunday 8/15	9:15 am	Outdoor children's message
	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, 8/17	9:00 am	Clothes Closet
	9:30 am	Food Pantry
	7:00 pm	SPRC Meeting
Wednesday, 8/18	10:30 am	Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour
Next Sunday, 8/22	9:15 am	Outdoor children's message
	9:30 am	Worship