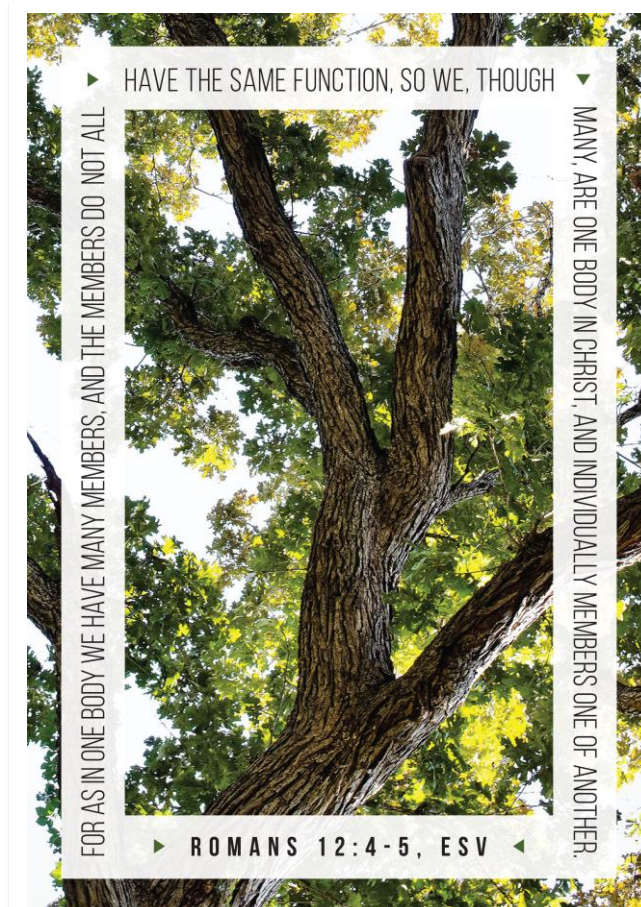


St. James United Methodist Church

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 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.

14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 29, 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	Ryan Carlson
L: God calls us to be a community of faith --	
P: To remember who we are.	
L: God calls us to worship --	
P: To remember whose we are.	
L: God calls us to discover and use our gifts --	
P: To remember why we're here.	
L: God calls us to be the church --	
P: Let us remember, be grateful, and worship our God! Amen.	

HYMN	"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" No. 140	Darlene Skene
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Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and spring-time and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Refrain

PRAYER OF CONFESSION “A Modern Affirmation of Faith” UMH No. 885

Leader: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

All: We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works,

and whose will is ever directed to his children’s good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father’s unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of Love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. 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.

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT Exodus 2:1-10 Ryan Carlson

READING FROM THE EPISTLES Romans 12:3-8

SERMON Rev. Lynne Mentzer

HYMN “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” No. 400 Darlene Skene

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I’m come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

SHARING THE BLESSINGS OF GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Silent Prayer

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

O God, we ask your blessing on these gifts and tithes, not because they are so grand but because they are given in love – in love for you, and for the people you call us to serve through this church. Guide us to be generous and faithful in their use, and bless those who are blessed by the ministries they provide. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

GOING FORTH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

HYMN

“In the Midst of New Dimensions” No. 2238

Darlene Skene

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

Refrain

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?

Refrain

As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.

Refrain

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.

Refrain

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

POSTLUDE

Darlene Skene

This Week's Events at St. James – August 29, 2021		
Today, Sunday 8/29	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, 8/31	9:00 am	Clothes Closet
	9:30 am	Food Pantry
	7:00 pm	Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, 9/1	10:30 am	Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour
Next Sunday, 9/5	9:30 am	Worship

Announcements–August 29, 2021



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.)

School Kits for UMCOR

We are wrapping up our annual collection drive of School Kits for **UMCOR**, United Methodist Committee on Relief. Thank you to everyone who has purchased items needed or made monetary contributions to this worthwhile project.

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.

Community Arts Ministry Upcoming Programs

Programs beginning in September include Kindermusik®, Healthy School Snacks, Bible Journaling, Scrapbooking, and a Family Nature Walk. More details are available in the church office and on the church website

www.stjames-umchurch.org.

Sunday School

Sunday school starts on September 5 for children age 3 to grade 12. Registration forms are available in the church office and on the church website www.stjames-umchurch.org. Volunteers needed: If you would like to share your love of God with children, volunteer as a Sunday school teacher! Contact the church office so we can have you fill out a background check form.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Kids of all ages can bring their backpacks to church on Sunday, September 12 for a special back-to-school blessing.

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 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.