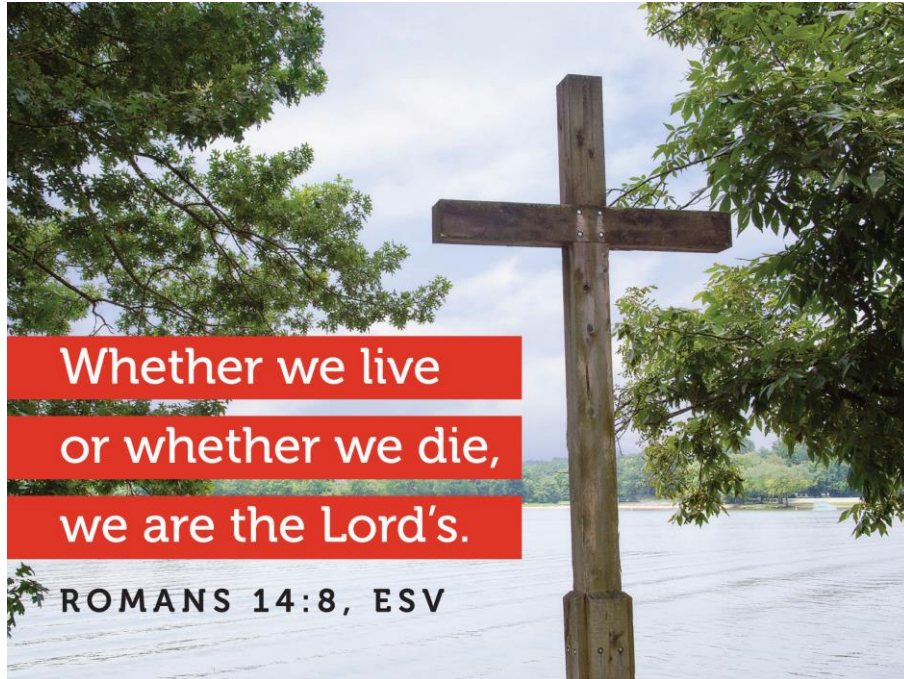


St. James United Methodist Church

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.

16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 12, 2021



GATHERING AS JESUS' DISCIPLES

GATHERING MUSIC

Darlene Skene

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF 9/11/01

GREETING OF PEACE

INTROIT

Choir

PRAYING AS JESUS TAUGHT US

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pat Garland

L: Come, friends, it is time for worship.

P: We come from different places; we come with different joys and needs.

L: But we all come at the call of Christ. Amen?

P: Amen!

L: And so let us listen to the testimonies of scripture and faithful lives.

P: Let us listen and share and learn together that God is good, all the time!

L: And all the time, God is good! Amen?

P: Amen!

HYMN

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” No. 140

Darlene Skene

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

Pat Garland

God of us all, we're so grateful to gather in your name and in this place to hear your word and witness your grace. We confess that it's easy for us to forget that you are in every place, that you speak every language, that you touch every life. Forgive us for allowing our familiar ways to limit your boundless ways. Shake us loose so that we might draw closer to you and to one another. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

Lord, bless these backpacks and the children and youth who carry them as they begin another year of school. Give them peace when they feel nervous, focus when they feel distracted, and energy when they feel tired. Open their minds to the lessons they will learn both in and outside the classroom. Help them to make friends that build one another up, and be friends to those who need them. Guide them in making good choices as they grow in wisdom and maturity. Be ever-present with them in the classroom, on the school bus, on the playground, and at home, and may they feel your loving care in all they do. Amen.

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 PSALMS

Psalm 34:1-8

Pat Garland

SPECIAL MUSIC

Choir

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Luke 9:23-26

Patrice Viakinnou

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Romans 14:7-9

Olga Viakinnou

SHARED TESTIMONY

Patrice and Olga Viakinnou

HYMN

"I Surrender All" No. 354

Darlene Skene

All to Jesus I surrender; all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him, in his presence daily live.
I surrender all, I surrender all, all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender; humbly at his feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken; take me, Jesus, take me now.
I surrender all, I surrender all, all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender; make me, Savior, wholly thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit, truly know that thou art mine.
I surrender all, I surrender all, all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to thee;
Fill me with thy love and power; let thy blessing fall on me.
I surrender all, I surrender all, all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender; now I feel the sacred flame.
O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory to his name!
I surrender all, I surrender all, all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Choir

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, you are generous beyond our deserving, and faithful beyond our doubts. How can we be less than generous and faithful and still be yours? Let us resolve to grow in both! And so receive these gifts and tithes, and receive our prayers and service, as tokens of our great love for you. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

HYMN

“Blessed Assurance” No. 369

Darlene Skene

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

**This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

POSTLUDE

Darlene Skene

*The flowers which grace our altar this morning are given to the glory of God
by Brenda DuLong in memory of James Cantrell.*

This Week's Events at St. James – September 12, 2021		
Today, Sunday 9/12	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, 9/14	9:00 am	Clothes Closet
	9:30 am	Food Pantry
	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday, 9/15	10:30 am	Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour
	7:00 pm	Scrapbooking Workshop
Next Sunday, 9/19	9:30 am	Worship

Announcements–September 12, 2021



Welcome Missionaries Patrice and Olga Viakinnou

Today our new friends Olga and Patrice Viakinnou will share their testimony to the power of God's guidance and love in their lives. Olga is an LPN, currently on full scholarship to Riviere University in Nashua to become an RN. Patrice is an ordained minister, church planter, and pastoral counselor. Olga and Patrice have three sons: Olukpe, attending SNHU; Olushola, age 10, and Oludara, age 7. They live at Maple Ridge in Merrimack and have been worshipping with us for several months.

Welcome Back Choir

After a longer than usual hiatus, we are happy to see and hear our choir again. Your music greatly enhances our worship experience – welcome back!

Community Arts Ministry Upcoming Programs

There will be a two week scrapbooking workshop on Wednesday, September 15 and September 29 from 7-8:30 pm. Cost is \$25. Call the church office if you are interested in attending.

Sewing Group for Dress a Girl Around the World

A sewing workday is being planned for anyone interested in sewing dresses or helping in other way by cutting out dresses and/or pressing them. We plan to meet in the Wesley Room the third Thursday of each month or more frequently depending on the interest. The first gathering will be September 17, 2021 from 1-3 PM. A head count would be helpful so please call the church office if this is something you would like to help with or talk with Cheryl Barb or Diane Tate.

Clothes Closet Seasonal Turn-Around

It's time to get ready for fall! The Clothes Closet will be putting away their summer clothes and getting ready for fall from Wednesday, September 29 through Saturday, October 2. We need volunteers to come from 9 am to noon on any of those days. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Flu Shot Clinic

On **October 3rd**, Walgreens will be hosting a clinic right here at St. James following worship. This event is open to anyone in the community. Most flu shots are covered 100% by insurance. Seniors bring your Medicare or Medicare advantage card and other insured patients should bring in both your Dr. and pharmacy card (if different).

Ushers Needed

If you would like to help with our Sunday worship services as an usher, please speak to Dave Jenkins.

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.