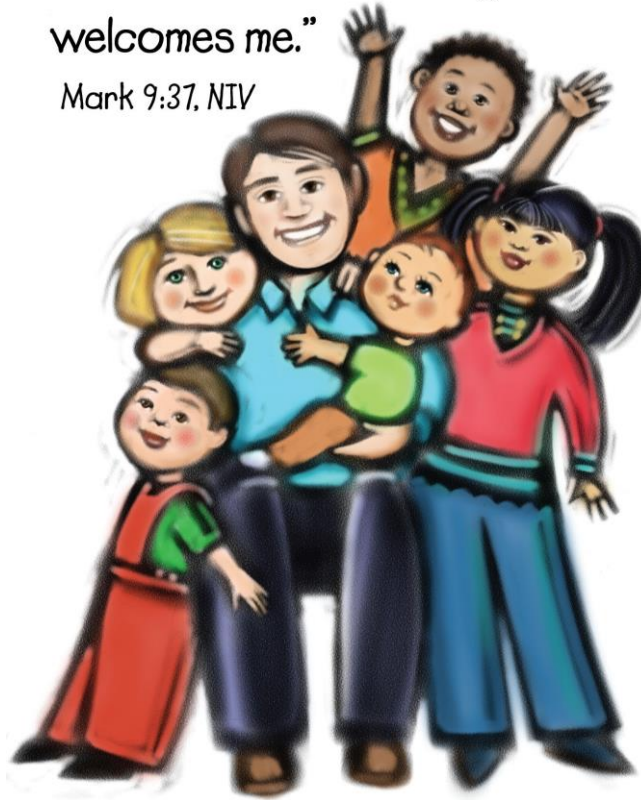


St. James United Methodist Church

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

“Whoever welcomes one of
these little children in *my* name
welcomes me.”

Mark 9:37, NIV



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.

17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 19, 2021



GATHERING AS JESUS' DISCIPLES

GATHERING MUSIC

Darlene Skene

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

GREETING OF PEACE

INTROIT

Choir

PRAYING AS JESUS TAUGHT US

CALL TO WORSHIP

George Fisher

L: We are a people born of love and water!

P: We worship a God whose love flows through water.

L: Love, like a gentle rain shower, nurtures the sleeping seed within the soul.

P: Love, like a wading pool, inspires and delights youthful spirits.

L: Love, like a hot shower after a long day's work, cleanses and renews us.

P: Love, like little drops of water dripping from fingertips to forehead, opens the heart of our family of faith to welcome one more.

L: We are a people born of love and water!

P: We worship a God whose love flows through water. Amen.

HYMN "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" No. 605

Darlene Skene

Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people; bless as Christ belssed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
One whit Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.

O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirt-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

Gracious God, we come before you to confess how often we forget our baptism; how easily we choose dry doubt over saturating faith; how much we need your life-giving grace to refresh our hearts. Forgive us, O Lord, and help us to remember ... and be thankful. We ask this in your holy name, Amen.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR PORTIA JACE GERARDO

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

St. James United Methodist Church

Merrimack, New Hampshire

Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Through the sacrament of baptism we are initiated into Christ’s holy church. We are incorporated into God’s mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God’s gift, offered to us without price.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE

As lay leader of this congregation, it is my privilege to present Portia Jace Gerardo to receive the sacrament of holy baptism.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Mollie and Jason, on behalf of your daughter Portia and the whole church, I ask you now these historic questions:

- Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? **We do.**
- Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? **We do.**
- Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations and races? **We do.**
- And will you promise to nurture Portia in the love of Christ, that by your teaching and example she may be guided to accept God’s grace for herself, to profess her faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? **We will.**
- Jia and Kyle, as Portia’s godparents, will you promise to love her and pray for her, to support her as she grows in Christian faith, and to faithfully walk with her along the spiritual path? **We will.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

- Do you, as Christ’s body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**
- Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this family in your care? **We do.**

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Portia and her family with Christian love and forgiveness, and pray for them that they may grow in faith and walk in the way that leads to life.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments:

• Do you believe in God?

We believe in the one God, creator and sustainer of all things, founder of all nations, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love.

• Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

We believe in Jesus Christ, God made manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example and Redeemer, the Savior of the world.

• Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

* * *

Eternal God, when nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

* * *

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

* * *

Pour out your Holy Spirit to bless this gift of water and Portia who receives it now, to wash away sin and clothe her in righteousness throughout her life, that dying and being raised with Christ, she may share in his final victory. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Portia Jace, I baptize you in the name the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God, I hereby commend Portia Jace Gerardo to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the Body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

PRESENTATION OF BAPTISM CERTIFICATE, BIBLE AND CANDLE

BLESSING

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit that you may live in grace and peace.

And let the people say, **AMEN!**

HYMN "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" No. 2051 Darlene Skene

"I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old,
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."

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 EPISTLES Romans 12: 9-18 George Fisher
ANTHEM Choir

READING FROM THE GOSPEL Mark 9:33-37

SERMON Rev. Lynne Mentzer

HYMN

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise” No. 611

Darlene Skene

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit’s sign;
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love’s expression, love’s creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God’s you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ’s name.

Child of God your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than 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

Gracious God, your presence saturates all creation, every life, every day – and we are so grateful! Your gifts of baptism and communion bless and bind us to you – and we are made new in their mysteries. Thank you for blessings beyond our earning or understanding. Make us grateful and generous in return, as we offer these gifts and our very lives to you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

GOING FORTH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

HYMN "This Little Light of Mine" No. 585 Darlene Skene, Real Fallu, and Eric Carlson

This little light of mine, I'm goin' a let it shine, this little light of mine, I'm goin' a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm goin' a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm goin' a let it shine, Everywhere I go, I'm goin' a let it shine;
Everywhere I go, I'm goin' a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All through the night, I'm goin' a let it shine, All through the night, I'm goin' a let it shine;
All through the night, I'm goin' a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

POSTLUDE

Darlene Skene

*The flowers which grace our altar this morning are given to the glory of God
by Doug and Linda Wilson in honor of their 38th wedding anniversary.*

This Week's Events at St. James – September 19, 2021		
Today, Sunday 9/19	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, 9/21	9:00 am	Clothes Closet
	9:30 am	Food Pantry
	7:00 pm	SPRC Meeting
Wednesday, 9/22	10:30 am	Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour
Friday, 9/24	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Saturday, 9/25	9:00 am	Family Nature Walk at Mine Falls Park
Next Sunday, 9/26	9:30 am	Worship
	1:00 pm	Ryan Carlson Eagle Scout Court of Honor

Announcements–September 12, 2021



No Sunday School Today

Our Sunday school teachers are not able to attend church today, so we will not have Sunday school. Instead, the children are welcome to join us in worship as we welcome little Portia into our faith family.

Community Arts Ministry Upcoming Program

The next Community Arts Ministry Program to be offered is a family nature walk at Mine Falls Park in Nashua at 9 am on Saturday, September 25. To register for this and other programs, contact the church office at 424-7459 or email communityartsministry@gmail.com.

Farewell Blessing for Charlie Hall

Long time church member Charlie Hall will be moving to Maine at the end of this month. Next Sunday, September 26, Pastor Lynne will lead the congregation in a special blessing as we say farewell to our dear friend.

Ryan Carlson Eagle Scout Court of Honor

The Carlson Family invites our church family to Ryan Carlson's Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 1:00 pm. A cake reception will follow. Please come to help us celebrate his great accomplishment!

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).

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. 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.

Harvest Fair 2021

The Harvest Fair is back and scheduled for Saturday, October 16th. Please see the September newsletter for all of the specifics. There will be sign-ups and collections in Fellowship Hall every Sunday after church from September 12th through October 10th. Although there will not be a supper, we are hoping to have a yard sale, baked goods and candy, crafts, silent auction, book sale, breakfast and lunch. We will need lots of donations and volunteers. Please stop by the table in Fellowship Hall after church, or see Lesley Fallu (fallu@comcast.net, 603-497-4060) or Brenda DuLong (bsdulong@gmail.com, 603-493-5495) for more information.