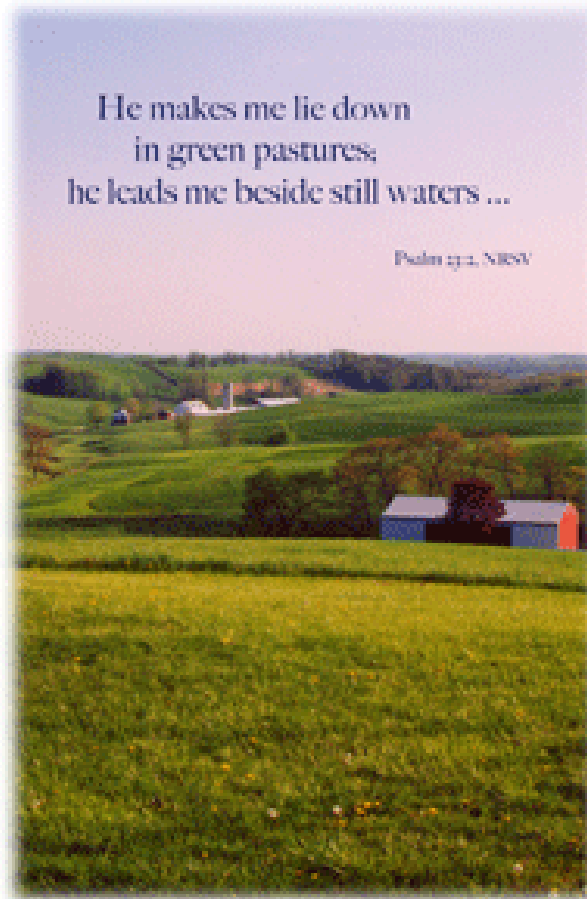


# St. James United Methodist Church

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](mailto:stjamesmrmk@gmail.com)  
Prayer Request E-mail: [sjprayerchain@gmail.com](mailto:sjprayerchain@gmail.com)  
Visit us on the web: [stjames-umchurch.org](http://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.

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 26, 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

Brenda DuLong

L: Come, friends, let us gather to worship the Lord.

**P: We come from near and far to be God's community of faith.**

L: As we worship and serve together, we grow in love for God and one another.

**P: But when the time comes for us to part, we go knowing we'll always be one in Spirit.**

L: And so we gather, serve and grow, part and remain united in love.

**P: Thanks be to God for the blessing of this and every day! Amen.**

\*HYMN

"Morning Has Broken" No. 145

Darlene Skene

Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

**God of us all -- gathered here and gathered on-line -- even as we confess our deep love for you, we also confess our resistance to change. And even as we celebrate new beginnings, we also resist the moving on of friends and familiar ways. Forgive our resistance to your unfolding plans for us, and help us to trust, obey, and follow in faith. In Jesus' name we ask it, Amen.**

### HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Brenda DuLong

**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

Psalms 23

Brenda DuLong

ANTHEM

"His Eye Is On the Sparrow"

Choir

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Matthew 6:25-26

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

SERMON

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING FOR CHARLIE HALL

\*HYMN

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" No. 133

Darlene Skene

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

**Refrain**

**Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

**Refrain**

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have a blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.

**Refrain**

### SHARING THE BLESSINGS OF GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER (sing together)

Darlene Skene

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. 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

ANTHEM

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, it is with grateful hearts that we gather and give generously this day. We're grateful for the countless ways you bless us every day. We're grateful for the countless opportunities you give us to share those blessings with others. And so we dedicate these gifts and tithes, that they will serve you and your people generously, all to your glory. Amen.**

### **GOING FORTH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

\*HYMN

"Go Forth for God" No. 670

Darlene Skene

Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;  
be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,  
in God's good spirit daily to increase, till in the kingdom we see face to face.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.

Go forth for God, go to the world in love;  
strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;  
help the afflicted; richly from above God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in love.

Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;  
hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;  
render to no one evil; Christ at length shall overcome all darkness with his light.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.

Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,  
to serve God's people every day and hour,  
and serving Christ, our every gift employ, rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

\*INVITATION TO GATHER FOR SPECIAL COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

Darlene Skene

*The flowers which grace our altar this morning are given to the glory of God by George and Lucille Fisher in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.*

This Week's Events at St. James – September 26, 2021		
Today, Sunday 9/26	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, 9/28	9:00 am	Clothes Closet
	9:30 am	Food Pantry
	7:00 pm	Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, 9/29	9:00 am	Clothes Closet seasonal turn-around
	10:30 am	Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour
Thursday, 9/30	9:00 am	Clothes Closet seasonal turn-around
Friday, 10/1	9:00 am	Clothes Closet seasonal turn-around
	7:30 pm	Choir practice
Saturday, 10/2	8:00 am	Men's breakfast at Joey's Diner
	9:00 am	Clothes Closet seasonal turn-around
Next Sunday, 10/3	9:30 am	Worship with Communion
	10:30 am	Flu shot clinic

# Announcements–September 26, 2021



## **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.

## **Men's Breakfast**

All men are invited to meet for breakfast at Joey's Diner, 1 Craftsman Lane, Amherst on Saturday, September 4 at 8:00 am. RSVP to George Fisher at [fishergf@comcast.net](mailto:fishergf@comcast.net) so he knows how many people to expect.

## **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).

## **Community Arts Ministry Upcoming Programs**

Write from the Heart will be offered for four Thursdays October 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 7 pm. Intro to Bible Journaling workshop will meet on two Wednesdays, October 13 and 20 at 7 pm. Both programs will take place in the Wesley Room. Call the church office 424-7459 or email [communityartsministry@gmail.com](mailto:communityartsministry@gmail.com) to register.

## **Harvest Fair 2021**

The Harvest Fair is back and scheduled for Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. 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 12<sup>th</sup> through October 10<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:fallu@comcast.net), 603-497-4060) or Brenda DuLong ([bsdulong@gmail.com](mailto:bsdulong@gmail.com), 603-493-5495) for more information.

## **Ushers Needed**

If you would like to help with our Sunday worship services as an usher, please contact Dave Jenkins at 603-820-0685 or [dewi-babs@comcast.net](mailto:dewi-babs@comcast.net).

## **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.