



ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH

150 Colborne St. S., Simcoe, ON N3Y 4H6

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STAFF:

Minister: Rev. Barrie Bain, BA, M.Div.

Volunteer Associate Minister: Rev. Michael Beacom, BA, BD

Music Director: Diane Stewart (226) 567-5875

Office Administrator/Treasurer: Ann McNall 519-428-2611

Janitor: John McNall (519) 428-2611

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday (9 to noon)

February 8th 2026 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany
10:30 am. St. James United Church Family in Worship
Worship Focus – “*DARING DISCIPLESHIP!*”
“Spiritual Growth, Compassionate Living”

SEEKING JESUS' LIGHT - WE JOURNEY TOGETHER

Prelude Music:

GOOD MORNING! Words of Welcome, Greetings and Announcements. Persons wishing to remain seated during the service are encouraged to do so with our blessing. Your presence and spirit of waiting will bless our journey of faith with companionship. You are invited to join together for a time of visiting and refreshments in the Muriel Bridge Room following the benediction and postlude music.

Call to Worship:

Leader: Come, beloved people of God!

All: We come to worship and value all of God's messengers.

Leader: Come, all of you, “Salt of the earth.”

All: We come to add seasoning and vitality to each season of our lifetime!

Leader: Come, Light of the world. Lift your lanterns high!

All: We come to bring God's Light, that all may see clearly.

Leader: Come, let us gather together in worship, with singing, and praying, laughter and sharing God's love!

Hymn of Praise: **VU #603 “In Loving Partnership We Come”**

Prayer of Approach (unison)

O Weaver God, gather the many colored strands of our lives into the grace of Your hands. Awesome Creator, weave us into a tapestry of beauty and strength. Grant us faith in Your design for our lives and work us together into a wholeness, we can only imagine. Amen.

Assurance of Blessing and the Lord's Prayer

ALL: No matter who we are, or what choices we have made, God always makes the choice to love us. No matter how tangled things may seem, We will never be separated from the strength of God's love. This is "Good News Indeed." Thanks be to God!

The Lord's Prayer – Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

Psalm 112 Psalter **VU# 834 "Delight in God's commandments"**

DESIRING CHRISTIAN GROWTH - WE LISTEN

Family Hymn: **VU# 299 "Teach Me, God, to Wonder"**

Family Focus – Storyteller Rev. Barrie

Scripture Lesson:

Isaiah 58:1-9 "The fast that changes hearts"

Matthew 5:13-20 "You are salt; You are light"

Lay Reader: February House

Choir Anthem: "Ancient Words" - arr by M Hayes

Message: **"Salt and Light are God's Delight!"**

Reverend Barrie Bain Preaching

Hymn: **VU# 679 "Let There Be Light"**

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS - WE RESPOND

Presentation and Dedication of the Offering

Offertory Music:

Response: **VU #549 “For all Your Goodness, God”**

Offertory Prayer (unison)

God of dreams and endless hope, You have challenged us to imagine our world filled with peace and light. All that You ask is that the vision begins with each one of us. We commit ourselves to this goal, by sharing our offerings. Receive and use these gifts to build up Your community of hope and light and peace. This we do in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Hymn **VU# 242 “Let all Things Now Living”**

Benediction & Commissioning

Postlude Music:

VOLUNTEERS FROM THE FEBRUARY HOUSE INVITE YOU to

The Muriel Bridge Room for refreshments and fellowship following the service.

Amicitia Unit will meet in Tuesday, February 10 at 7 pm in the Muriel Bridge Room.

Please remember to join together in the Muriel Bridge Room on Wednesday February 18 at 7:00pm to participate in The Ash Wednesday Service. Visitors are most welcome.

COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday, February 17 at 1 pm in the Muriel Bridge Room

Bible Reading - February 8, 2026
Reader: February House

Isaiah 58:1-9

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.

‘Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

Bible Reading - February 8, 2026
Reader: February House

Matthew 5:13-20

‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.