



ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH

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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 22, 2026 - First Sunday in Lent
10:30 am. St. James Church Family in Worship
Worship Focus: "While Making Choices - God IS Present!"
"Spiritual Growth, Compassionate Living"

WITH SENSE OF WONDER - WE GATHER

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.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Call to Worship:

Leader: We gather in this St. James Faith Community,
Seeking something completely different:
in this place, at this time, we are seeking God!

**ALL: Whose ways are not our ways, whose thoughts
are not our thoughts.**

Leader: I invite you to be in God's presence, to be open
to God's Spirit, during this Lenten Season.

**ALL: Our God leads us and brings us closer together:
We join as a blending family – in praise,
worship, fellowship, prayer and service to others.**

Hymn of Praise: **VU #691 "Though Ancient Walls"**

Invitation for Lenten Reflection (unison)

Teach us, lead us, guide us, God. Let us know your truths, your ways, your paths. Teach us your commandments, lead us in righteousness, guide us in holy living. Let us know your demanding ways, your paths of high expectation, your uncompromising truths. Teach us acceptance of others, lead us into openness, guide us in actions of justice. Let us know your gentle ways, your paths of graciousness, the truths that lead us onward. We walk together with Jesus, as faith-mentor and travelling companion. Amen.

Lenten Candle Un-Lighting:

ALL: Jesus' time grows shorter.

Leader: Even as the Christ-light shines,

**ALL: The world works to hide it: to hide Christ's Hope,
to hide Christ's understanding, to hide Christ's love.**

Leader: But we will NOT let the Christ-Light,
or the Christ-Love be hidden.

**ALL: Even on our way to the cross, in the best,
in the worst, Christ's Light will shine for us!
"Don't Be Afraid"**

DESIRING CHRISTIAN GROWTH - WE LISTEN

Psalm 91 (VU# 807) "I will raise you up on eagle's wings"

Family Focus: Storyteller – Rev. Barrie

Scripture Lesson:

Romans 5:12-19 "Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ"

Matthew 4:1-11 "The Temptation of Jesus"

Lay Reader: February House - Don Elmes

Musical Selection; Diane Stewart

Message: "SEEKING GOD'S GUIDANCE IN TIMES OF ANXIETY!"

Reverend Barrie Bain Preaching

Hymn VU# 227 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS - WE RESPOND

Presentation and Dedication of the Offering

Offertory Response: **VU #537 "Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands"**

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Receive our gifts, O Lord. We pray that they may be used to impart "God's Blessings" in a variety of places. Be present in the faith journey of those who have given; bless others as they receive. We offer thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn VU# 112 "O God, How We Have Wandered"

Benediction & Commissioning

Postlude Music:

VOLUNTEERS FROM THE FEBRUARY HOUSE INVITE YOU to

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

World Day of Prayer will be held at St. Paul's on Friday, March 6 at 1:30 pm

Bible Reading - February 22, 2026
Reader: February House - Don Elmes

Romans 5:12-19

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—
13 sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. 14 Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. 16 And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. 17 If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. 19 For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." '

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." '

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.