



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)

March 8th 2026 LENT 3 - International Women's Day
10:30 am. St. James United Church Family in Worship
Worship Focus – “Life Giving Waters!”
“Spiritual Growth, Compassionate Living”

SEEKING JESUS' LEADING - WE JOURNEY TOGETHER

Prelude Music:

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

Call to Worship:

Leader: We gather in this St. James United Faith Community, seeking something completely different: in this our Lenten Journey, we seek God's Presence.

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

Leader: I invite you to be in God's worshipful presence, and be open to the leading of God's Holy Spirit.

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

Hymn of Praise: VU #288 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

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:

Leader: Even as the days grow longer,

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!

Psalm 95 Psalter VU# 814 "Shout to the rock of our salvation"

DESIRING CHRISTIAN GROWTH - WE LISTEN

Family Hymn: **VU# 357 "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"**

Family Focus: Storyteller – Rev. Barrie

Scripture Lesson:

Exodus 17:1-7 Water from the rock

John 4:5-42 Jesus and the Samaritan woman

Lay Reader: March House

Musical Selection: Diane Stewart

Message: **“Living Waters: Bring Transformation!”**

Reverend Barrie Bain Preaching

Hymn **VU#299 “Teach Me, God, to Wonder” (with refrain)**

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# 633 “Bless Now, O God, The Journey”**

Words by Sylvia Dunstan – Music by Basil Harwood

Benediction & Commissioning

Choral Closing:

Postlude Music:

VOLUNTEERS FROM THE MARCH HOUSE INVITE YOU to The Muriel Bridge Room for refreshments and fellowship following the service.

March 10 - Amicitia Unit will meet in the Muriel Bridge Room at 7 pm

Bible Reading - March 8, 2026

Reader: March House

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Bible Reading - March 8, 2026

Reader: March House

John 4:5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is

now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’