



Picture submitted by Kim Hamill

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH

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

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Website: www.stjamesunited.ca

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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)

2nd Sunday of Advent - December 7th 2025
10:30am St. James United Church Family Gathers
Worship Theme: **Peace in the Family**
***“Our Discovery of God’s Vision of Peace for the
World!”***

“Spiritual Growth, Compassionate Living”

AWAITING THE CHRIST CHILD - WE JOURNEY TOGETHER

Prelude Music:

GOOD MORNING! Words of Welcome, Greetings and Announcements. Persons wishing to remain seated for this service are welcome to do so with our blessing. Your presence and the Spirit of Advent waiting will bless our journey of faith with companionship! We invite you to worship with a sense of praise, Advent music and the sacrament of belonging. You are invited to join together for a time of refreshments and visiting following the benediction. This social time will take place in the Muriel Bridge Room.

Call to Worship: - (Responsive)

Leader: For those times when the way ahead seems blocked
with obstacles,
For those times when tasks compete urgently for our
attention;

People: God’s word is Hope!

Leader: For those times when conflict rages, during times
when it is so hard for us to get along.

People: God’s word is Peace!

Hymn of Praise: **VU #374 “Come and Find the Quiet Centre”**

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious God, on this Second Sunday of Advent, we give thanks for Your Hope and your Peace. We give thanks for the promises we know in Jesus: promises of love, forgiveness, and new life. Guide us through this Advent Season that we might keep focused on your holy presence. May we keep Christ at the central focus of our Christmas celebrations. Forgive us for those times when we are asleep to those needs around us. Awaken our faith in You and our service to this world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon and the Lord's Prayer (unison)

DESIRING CHRISTIAN GROWTH - WE LISTEN

Advent Candle Lighting Response:

Leader: Last Sunday we lit "This Candle of Hope." We light it again as we continue our Advent journey, our time of eager anticipation and our time of waiting . . .
Waiting for the arrival of the One who will redeem us from our conflict: within our thoughts, our families, our communities, and our world.

LIGHT THE CANDLE OF HOPE!

Leader: We open our hearts and our minds to divine PEACE as we pray together saying:

All: **Tender God, whose will it is that we live in harmony, we light this next candle, trusting that "Your Illuminating Rays of PEACE" will come to guide us into wholeness, even in our most broken hours.**

LIGHT THE CANDLE OF PEACE !

Family Hymn: **VU#6 “A Candle Is Burning” verses 1&2**

Family Focus – with Rev. Barrie

Presentation and Dedication of White Gifts

Psalter **VU# 790** Psalm 72 – Parts 1&3 **“A just ruler”**

Scripture Lessons:

Isaiah 11:1-10 “A vision of the Peaceable Kingdom”

Matthew 3:1-12 “John the Baptist preaches”

Lay Reader: December House - Bill Easdown

Choir Anthem: **“An Advent Song”** - JM Martin

Message: “Our Vision for Peace and Harmony”

Reverend Barrie Bain Preaching

Hymn: **VU# 242 “Let All Things Now Living”**

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS - WE RESPOND

Presentation and Dedication of the Offering

Offertory Response: **VU #541 “Praise God from Whom All
Blessings Flow”**

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Great God, You have given us new life and hope! In expectant waiting, we offer to You, our gifts of time, talent and money. We pray that this “Expression of Hope AND Peace” may be shared with others throughout the world. This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Hymn: VU # 427 "To Show by Touch and Word"

Benediction:

Postlude:

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

ENVELOPES FOR 2026 For those needing envelopes for 2026 they can be picked up at the office. You will need to put your name and envelope number on each envelope in the box so that you will receive credit for your donation.

FOR SALE: We have the 2026 Calendars for sale \$10. They will be available to purchase after church from Jody Mahoney.

Upcoming Events:

ATTENTION LADIES - all women of the church are invited to a potluck dinner Tuesday, Dec. 9th at 6:00 followed by entertainment. RSVP to Jody Mahoney

Concert - December 13

Christmas Concert at 2 pm featuring Low Notes High Hopes Saxophone Quartet with special guests. Freewill Offering

POT LUCK - December 28

Bring your favorite dish to share with others following morning worship. Refreshments will be provided.

POINSETTIA IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

If you would like to make a donation, place your donation in an envelope clearly labeled "POINSETTIA IN MEMORY". Include your name, envelope number and who it is in memory of. Each name will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve.



ANGEL TREE - Be an angel this Christmas and support the Benevolent Committee's Christmas Hamper Project. Donations will be accepted until Sunday, December 21st. Fill out the Angel, put your donation in an envelope and place it in the basket provided, or give to Doug Haskett, or any Benevolent Committee member or drop it off at the church office during the week.



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The church office will be open December 22 & 23 (9am-noon) and December 29 & 30 (9:00am-noon).

YEAR END DONATIONS - To ensure that your donation is credited to the current year it must be received at the church office by December 31/25

ATTENTION COUNCIL CHAIRS - As another year comes to a close please send in your YEAR END reports to the church office by December 31/25

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE is working on the committee list for 2026. If you have a desire to work on a committee, please contact the following member of the Nominating committee - Ed Doerksen or leave name at the church office.

December 2025

November '25							January '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		25	26	27	28	29	30
						30							

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2 Tues/Fri Group NLR 9am Tues/Sat Group NLR 8pm	3 Heart & Soul 1-3 Sanctuary Bridge 1-4pm. MBR	4 Choir practice 7pm. Thurs Group NLR 8pm Bible Study 1:30-3pm	5 Tues/Fri Group 9 - 11:30 - NLR	6 ART WITH HEART 1-5 PM Ssnct/MBR
7 Advent 2 WHITE GIFT SUNDAY Reader Bill Easdown	8	9 Group - NLR 9am Probus 11-2 Amicitia MBR 6pm Tues/Sat Group NLR 8pm	10 Bridge 1-4pm. MBR	11 Choir practice 7pm. Thurs Group NLR 8pm Bible Study 1:30-3pm	12 Tues/Fri Group 9 - 11:30 - NLR	13 BAND CONCERT SAXOPHONE QUARTET & GUEST - 2:00 pm
14 Advent 3 Reader Beth Wheatley	15	16 Tues/Fri Group NLR 9am Tues/Sat Group NLR 8pm	17 Bridge 1-4pm. MBR	18 Choir practice 7pm. Thurs Group NLR 8pm Bible Study 1:30-3pm	19 Tues/Fri Group 9 - 11:30 - NLR	20
21 Advent 4 Reader Bill Easdown	22	23 Tues/Fri Group NLR 9am Tues/Sat Group NLR 8pm	24 Christmas Eve - 7pm	25 Thurs Group NLR 8pm	26 Tues/Fri Group 9 - 11:30 - NLR	27
28 POT LUCK	29	30 NLR 9am 0 Tues/Sat Group NLR 8pm Vari Safe Education MBR 8am-3pm	31	1	2	3
4 Reader	5	Notes UCW Pot Luck - Feb 9 at 6 pm. Guest Welcome.				

Bible Reading - December 7/25
Reader: December House - Bill Easdown

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,

their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall
be glorious.

Bible Reading - December 7/25
Reader: December House - Bill Easdown

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight." '

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his

sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'