



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)

3rd Sunday of Advent - December 14th 2025
10:30am St. James United Church Family Gathers
Worship Theme: “**Hopeful-Living With JOY!**”
“**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 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 visiting and refreshments following the benediction and postlude music.

Call to Worship: - (Responsive)

Leader: We enter into this experience of worship with Hope, Peace and Joy in our hearts!

People: **We are seeking confirmation of the Love of God that brings us new life to be shared with others and celebrated by all!**

Leader: Let us worship GOD together, with a SPIRIT OF JOY!

People: **Let us open our hearts, minds and voices to the leading of God’s Spirit for our journey through Advent!**

Hymn of Praise: VU #60 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Prayer of Approach (unison)

O God, You surprised the world that first Christmas, when You came as a little child. Surprise us again with a similar unexpected arrival of Your presence this year. In a time when people can orbit the earth and orbit our hearts. In a day when satellites surround our world, please become a satellite for our needy lives. Give us faith to confront our fears, strength for our weakness, and a source of inner joy that we might share with others. In Jesus' we pray. Amen.

DESIRING CHRISTIAN GROWTH - WE LISTEN

Candle Lighting – THIRD SUNDAY

Responsive Litany:

Leader: Companion God, we journey together in yet another Advent Season.

All: Illuminate for us another shining pathway with our Creator!

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE AND JOY.

THIRD SUNDAY (unison prayer)

Gracious Lord, as we continue our Advent Journey of 2025, we acknowledge that our surroundings are often far from peaceful. By Your Spirit, help us to be agents of peace in this world around us. Throughout this season, continue to fill us with the Hope, Peace and Joy that surpasses all understanding. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Family Focus – with Rev. Barrie

Family Hymn: VU# 6 “A Candle Is Burning” * verses 1&2&3 only

Scripture Lessons:

Isaiah 35:1-10 "The desert blooms and rejoices"

Luke 1:47-55 "Mary's song of justice"

Lay Reader: December House: Beth Wheatley

Musical Selection: by Diane Stewart

Message: "**THE JOY OF BELONGING IN 2025!**"

Reverend Barrie Bain Preaching

Hymn: VU# 35 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS - WE RESPOND

Presentation and Dedication of the Offering

Offertory Response: VU #538 "For the Gift of Creation"

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 our Joy" may be shared with others throughout the world. This we do in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU # 59 "Joy to the World"

Benediction and 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:

POT LUCK - December 28

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



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Photo submitted by Kim Hamill.

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.

Plan to invite family members, friends and Christmas visitors to join with us for "***Christmas Eve Service***" *in the sanctuary at 7:00pm on December 24th* ***Dress code is come as you are and enjoy this festive season!***

Bible Reading - December 14/25
Reader: December House - Beth Wheatley

Luke 1:47-55

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Bible Reading - December 14/25
Reader: December House - Beth Wheatley

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.