



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)

4th Sunday of Advent - December 21st 2025
10:30am St. James United Church Family Gathers
Worship Theme: **“In God We Trust!”**
“Spiritual Growth, Compassionate Living”

SEEKING JESUS' BIRTHPLACE - 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 Christmas 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 joyful 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: God is making great changes to our world.
Are you ready to help with this transformation?

People: **We have come to do God's will. To work for Peace and Justice, to bring balance back to our living patterns. With the sacrament of belonging during this Season of Christmas and beyond today, we journey forward!**

People: **To re-establish God's "Kingdom of Right Relationships"**
Right here in this sacred space and starting right now!

Leader: Come, let us worship God, who comes into our world, to reconcile and make all things new!

Hymn of Praise: **VU #73 “The Virgin Mary Had a Boy”**

Prayer of Approach (unison)

As we awaken this morning, we realize that The Earth has turned once more, Creator God. This Season of hope, peace, joy, and love returns as a reminder of how we should live the whole year through. You have called us to be your people, asking us to “Take God’s Light out into the world!” Help us in our times of worship throughout this Season of Advent, to find the words to share the messages of hope, peace, joy, and love. Show us how to be fully aware of your presence, so that we might share your loving presence with others. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

DESIRING CHRISTIAN GROWTH - WE LISTEN

Advent 4 Candle Lighting Response -

Leader: Three weeks ago we began our Advent journey by lighting the candle of “Hope.” We light it again today as we continue to wait in Hope.

ALL: Two weeks ago we lit the candle of PEACE. Our hearts continue to long for Peace for our world, so we light it also, again. On Advent 3 we lit the candle of JOY. Eager for a world that shares in Rejoicing, we light this one again! This morning we continue our journey through these busy days of December, opening our hearts and minds to Divine Love. Throughout this Adventure, we continue to seek Jesus’ light and love!

ADVENT 4 - Light the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

Family Hymn: **VU# 6 “A Candle Is Burning”** * verses 1-4

Family Focus – with Rev. Barrie

Scripture Lessons:

Isaiah 7:10-16 "The Sign of Emmanuel"

Matthew 1:18-25 "Joseph's dream"

Lay Reader: December House (Bill Easdown)

Choir Anthem: **"This is Christmas Love"** - M. McDonald

Message: **"ABOVE AND BEYOND GIFT – *That Keeps On Giving!*"**

Reverend Barrie Bain Preaching

Hymn: **VU# 64 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS - WE RESPOND

Presentation and Dedication of the Offering

Offertory Response: **VU #540 "Grant Us, God, the Grace"**

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 treasure. We pray that this "Expression of Abundant Love" 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 # 43 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain!"**

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.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The church office will be open December 22 (9am-noon), December 23 (10am-1pm) and December 29 & 30 (9am-noon). Rev. Barrie is "On Call for Pastoral Care" during the Holidays. Phone contact through the church Office 519-428-2611 or Minister's Home phone 905-765-8026.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24th Christmas Eve Family Candle-Light Service begins at 7:00 pm. Please bring your visiting Family and Christmas Visitors with you!

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.

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.



Bible Reading - December 21/25
Reader: December House - Bill Easdown

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Bible Reading - December 21/25
Reader: December House - Bill Easdown

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',
which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.