



ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH

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

Phone: (519) 428-2611 - Email: stjamesunitedchurch@bellnet.ca

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)

Sunday, December 28th 2025
10:30am St. James United Church Family Gathers
1st Sunday after Christmas With a Vision
Worship Theme: **“An Unexpected Journey”**
“Spiritual Growth, Compassionate Living”

SEEKING THE CHRIST CHILD - WE JOURNEY TOGETHER

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! We invite you to worship with a sense of praise, music and the sacrament of belonging with this community of faith! You are invited to join together for a time of visiting and refreshments in the Muriel Bridge Room following the benediction and postlude music.

Call to Worship: - (Responsive)

Leader: In this Season of Change, in this sacred place,
Response: We surrender to you, God - our fears, our concerns, our secret thoughts and our sense of vulnerability.
Leader: Confident in Your love, so clear and strong in Jesus,
Response: We can journey in faith to those sacred places of serenity, hope and joy.

Hymn of Praise: **VU #91 “The First Nowell”**

Prayer of Confession (**unison**)

God of Christmas, Light of the world, and our sure hope: as pilgrims, we journey in faith, anticipating Christ's ever-new appearing. Yet we acknowledge our hesitation to risk ridicule or alienation because of our witness to Jesus. Forgive our self-interest. Free us to live out our commitments in thought, word and action. Guide us to risk being "Your people of faith." In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon and the Lord's Prayer

ALL: No matter who we are, or what choices we have made, God always makes the choice to love us. No matter how tangled things may seem, we will never be separated from the strength of God's love. This is "Good News" indeed. Thanks be to God!

The Lord's Prayer (unison): Our Father, who art in heaven ...

SEEKING GOD'S TRUTH - WE LISTEN

Psalter VU#871 Psalm 148 "Let all creation praise God"
with refrain

Family Hymn: VU# 68 "All Poor Ones and Humble"

Family Focus – Storyteller: Rev. Barrie

Scripture Lessons:

Isaiah 63:7-9 "God's presence has saved us"
Matthew 2:13-23 "The escape to Egypt"
Lay Reader: December House (John VanMaanen)

Music Selection: Diane Stewart

Message: ““Family of Jesus – RUN FOR SAFE SPACE !”

Reverend Barrie Bain Preaching

Hymn: VU# 58 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS - WE RESPOND

Presentation and Dedication of the Offering

Offertory Response:VU #538 “For the Gift of Creation”

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Lord, you give us Life, a life to share with others. Christ, you give us Faith, a faith to share with others. Spirit, you give us Hope, a hope to share with others. Lord, Christ, Spirit, bless these moments of sharing with others! We pray that these gifts we offer will reveal to the world that the kingdom of God is at hand ! Amen

Prayers of the People

Hymn of Mission: VU # 43 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Benediction and Organ 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.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The church office will be open 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.

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 28/25
Reader: December House - John VanMaanen

Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ‘A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when

he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

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Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us,
and the great favour to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, ‘Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely’;
and he became their saviour
in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.