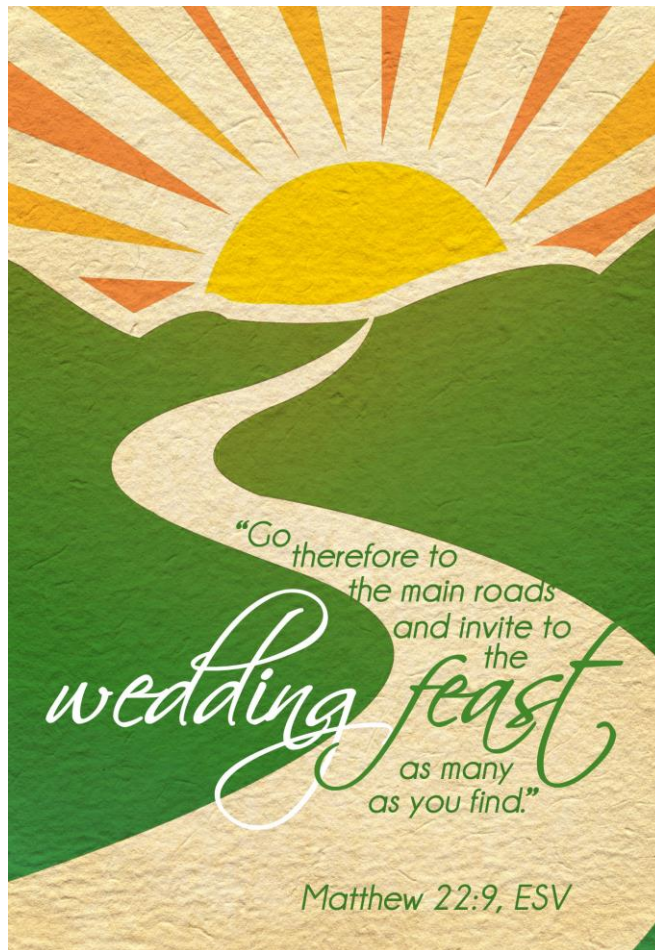


St. James United Methodist Church

646 Daniel Webster Highway, PO Box 895
Merrimack, NH 03054



Ministers: Rev. Dr. Hyuk Seonwoo and All the People!

Pastor's office hours: Tues – Thurs 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Office Administrator hours: Tues - Thurs 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Office phone: 603-424-7459 e-mail: stjamesmrmk@gmail.com

www.stjames-umchurch.org

Prayer Request E-mail: sjprayerchain@gmail.com

Welcome to on-line worship from St. James United Methodist Church!
We are pleased to have you as part of our family of faith today and every Sunday.

Visit www.stjames-umchurch.org and click on online worship at the top of the homepage. Turn your sound on and follow along with this bulletin.

The announcements are at the end of the bulletin.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2026



ENTRANCE

GATHERING MUSIC

Choir

GREETING

Rev. Gary Ponder Williams

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The risen Christ is with us.

Praise the Lord!

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Rev. Hyuk Seonwoo

OPENING PRAYER

Together

**Clothe us with Your Compassion, O God,
and wrap us in Your Kindness and Mercy,
so that we will be known for our Humility,
Gentleness, and Patience.
Yes, Clothe us with Your Love
so that all we say and do will bring Glory To You.
Amen.**

adapted from pp. 291-292 of *"The Abingdon Worship Annual 2018"* edited by Mary J. Scifres & B.J. Beu

* HYMN OF PRAISE

"Amazing Grace" (UMH 378)

Together

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there then thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God' praise than when we'd first begun.

BREATH PRAYER Breathe in: "God welcomes us!" Breathe out: "So we invite all."

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

ANTHEM

Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22:1-14

Rev. Hyuk Seonwoo and Rev. Gary Ponder Williams

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Description OR Prescription"

Rev. Gary Ponder Williams

*HYMN

"Pass It On" (UMH 572)

Together

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it;
You spread his love to everyone; you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding;
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming.
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it;
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found;
You can depend on him, it matters not where you're bound.
I'll shout it from the mountain-top; I want my world to know;
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Gary Ponder Williams

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

Together

Pray the Lord's Prayer in any version or language you feel comfortable with.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Online worshippers can participate in the offering via PayPal by scanning the QR code below.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Choir

* DOXOLOGY

Together

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 94
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Gary Ponder Williams

SENDING FORTH

*CLOSING HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord" (UMH 593)

Together

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

*DISMISSAL with BLESSING

Rev. Gary Ponder Williams

*The flowers which grace our altar this morning are given to the glory of God by David and Robin House
in honor of October Birthdays.*

Who is helping in worship next week?

The following people will help worship run smoothly next Sunday October 18.

Ushers: Debbe Walter and Younglang Seonwoo

Greeters: Joe and Carol Marrone

Liturgist/Worship Leader: Caitlyn Aierle

Refreshments: Mike, Cheryl and Mackenzie Barb.

Counters: Linda Wilson, Jessica Belch, Denise Green, Amy Shields

Announcements – October 11, 2026

Coffee Hour volunteers needed

We need volunteers to make coffee and provide refreshments in October, November and December. The sign up sheet is on the large green bulletin board in the hallway.

2026 Annual Church Conference

Each church meets annually as a community of God to celebrate ministries, conduct the business of the church, and to resolve to answer the call of Jesus Christ in the year ahead. The Church Conference format is one of Holy Conferencing where the business agenda is blended into worshipful work.

Our annual church conference has been scheduled for November 8 at 2 pm at Milford United Methodist Church. All St. James parishioners are invited although only church members can vote. District Superintendent Rev. Dr. David Palmer requests that reports from the Pastor, SPRC Chair, Finance Chair, Trustees Chair, Lay Servants, and UMM President be submitted to the conference online portal by October 16.

Greater Nashua CROP Hunger Walk

The Greater Nashua CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, October 18, 2026 beginning and ending at Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street in Nashua. Registration is from 12 to 1pm with opening ceremonies at 1pm and stepping out at 1:30pm. Those who raise all their monies online don't need to register and can grab lunch before coming at 12:45. St. James United Methodist Church is registered as a team. We'd love to have you walk with us or support us! Here is the website link or scan the QR code:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/st-james-umc>.



2027 Altar Flowers

The Flower Chart for 2027 is up on the big green bulletin board in the office hallway. If you would like to contribute flowers for a particular Sunday, add your name to the list. Altar flowers cost \$30 per arrangement and you can take them home after church that day so you can enjoy them all week long. Make checks payable to St. James UMC and write "Altar Flowers" on the memo line. You can place checks in the offering plate or mail them to the church.

Wanakee Fall Work Day

Saturday, October 24, 2026 from 9 am to 3 pm

Help get Wanakee ready for the winter season at our Fall Work Day! We'll spend the day caring for camp, tackling needed projects, and preparing our 227 acres for the months ahead. There is a place for every volunteer, regardless of experience or skill level. Projects may include clearing and hauling brush, light carpentry, putting away equipment, organizing supplies, and other work that helps keep camp safe, welcoming, and ready for the next season. Camp depends on the generosity of people who give their time and energy throughout the year. Invite your family, friends, church, youth group, or team to join you—everyone is welcome. Volunteers ages 17 and under must attend with an adult.

Coffee, light snacks, and lunch will be available for all volunteers. We will work rain or shine, including on outdoor projects, so come prepared for the forecast and wear sturdy clothes you can work in.

RSVP by visiting www.wanakee.org/events



Saturday, October 17, 2026
9 am to 2 pm

This year's Harvest fair will include a silent auction, yard sale, baked goods and candy. Lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall. New this year: Coffee and tea will be available in our Sweet Shoppe located in the Parlor. Pull up a chair and enjoy some baked goods or candies with your beverage of choice.

Silent Auction

With the fair rapidly approaching, we are still accepting silent auction items until October 11. Remember, auction items are baskets and gift cards, but they are also new items that you may have in your house but never used. Also, if you have any old silver-plated items such as trays, ice buckets, or casserole dishes that you no longer use, we can recycle these for money toward the fair. Please bring items to church on Sundays or to the church office during office hours T – Th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Leave your name with the items. If anything does not get sold, it will be returned or saved for the next auction. If you have questions, please email Lesley Fallu at fallu@comcast.net or Brenda DuLong at bsdulgon@gmail.com.

Yard Sale

It's time to start bringing in items for the Harvest Fair Yard Sale. Items will be stored in the green barn next to Fellowship Hall. You can bring your donations to church on Sundays starting September 13 and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, October 13, 15 and 16 from 5:30 - 7. Please – Clean, quality items only - no clothes or electronics. Talk to Linda Wilson or Debbe Walter if you have large furniture pieces. If you need to arrange a drop off during the week, email Linda Wilson at lbw04@msn.com or call/ text Linda at 603-493-9830.

Books, puzzles and board games will be separate from the yard sale. Drop off these items in the Sunday school classroom on Sundays or during office hours 8-2 Tuesday - Thursday.

Sweet Shoppe

Sign up after church during the month of September to bring baked goods and candy. Baked goods such as pies, coffee cakes, cupcakes, cookies, brownies and bars are always popular. Frosted layer cakes have not sold well in the past.

We could also use about 3 more volunteers to help in the Sweet Shoppe on the day of the fair. Let Carol Marrone or Joyce Hawkins know if you can help.

Card Tables and Pop Up Tents Needed

Let Robin House know if you have one that we can borrow. Please label these items with your name and bring them Thursday, October 15. Come to the office entrance if you get here before 4:30 pm. After 4:30, we can come in through the Fellowship Hall side entrance.