Opus Christi Works of Christ

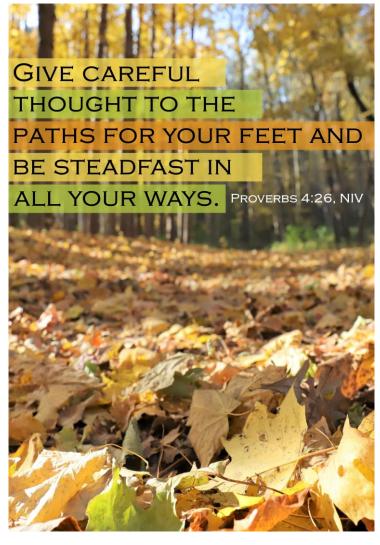
St. James United Methodist Church 646 Daniel Webster Highway Merrimack, NH 03054 Rev. Annie Baker-Streevy, Pastor Robin House, Office Administrator

Contact Us:

Office phone: (603)424-7459
Email: stjamesmrmk@gmail.com
Stjames-umchurch.org
Facebook: St. James UMC

Prayer Request email: sjprayerchain@gmail.com

Building Christian Community Within and Beyond the Church





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Pastor's Message



O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

O come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.
-Psalm 95

"Our worship in both its diversity and its unity is an encounter with the living God through the risen Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. When the people of God gather, the Spirit is free to move them to worship in diverse ways, according to their needs. We rejoice that congregations...can each worship in a style that enables the people to feel at home."

This week you will see a survey about worship both in this newsletter as well as in the bulletin if you attend worship in-person. We have changed a few things in our worship service, especially the way we do "Prayers of the People." What is included (or not included) in the order of service often changes based on the congregation's, the Pastor's and worship team's styles, the season in the church year, and other factors. Worship practices shift and change and some people will be happy with those changes, and some people will, most certainly, be upset.

This is why it is crucial to remember that worship is primarily for God, and not for us as individuals. We are not worshiping Mr. John Smith or Mrs. Brittany Smith on a Sunday; we are here to worship God. But does this mean that our preferences in worship, what we find meaningful or need out of a worship service are irrelevant? No.

In his book, "The Faith of the Christian Church," Tyrone Inbody writes, "The place to begin, I think, is with the axiom that worship is God-focused. Worship is not entertainment, the church's contribution to the shopper's stimulation and excitement in a consumer culture. Worship is not like a Broadway musical in which the bulletin is the playbill, the choir is the orchestra, the liturgists are the actors, and the congregation is the audience. Rather, the ministers, liturgists, and choir are prompters. The congregation are the performers, listening to God's Word, confessing their sins, lifting up their hearts, giving thanks to God. The audience is God."

So if we think of our roles in that way, with God being the audience, how is our performance of worship going? What could we be doing better that would make it a more meaningful experience of God's grace? Fill out the survey and let us know!

- Pastor Annie

WORSHIP



In Loving Memory

We share Lynne Lind's sorrow in the loss of her beloved husband Arpad who passed away on September 13 after a long period of declining health.

Thank you from Nancy Burt

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and emails during my mom's final days and at her passing. A special thank you to those who came to the visitation and funeral. We were blessed to have such overwhelming support, especially the incredible doctors, nurses, etc. at Home Health & Hospice Care.

Worship at St. James Survey

Here is the link to the online worship survey that Pastor Annie mentioned in her Pastor's message: https://forms.gle/jNmmtD4G7CASTbgVA

Paper copies will be inserted into the October 1 bulletin and are available in the church office. Thank you for your input!

Church Office Closed for Office Administrator Vacation

The church office will be closed the week of October 2-6 for the House family vacation in the beautiful San Juan Mountains of Colorado.

Memorial Services for Bishop Devadhar

The New England Conference will hold a Memorial Service for Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, The service will take place at 1:00 PM on Saturday, October 28 at Concord Wesley UMC, 79 Clinton St., Concord, NH 03301. More details are in the "Connected" newsletter insert on page 9 of this newsletter.

Save the Date for Annual Church Conference – November 5

Granite District Church Conferences will be held in Cluster groups this year. Our annual church conference will be held at 3 pm on Sunday, November 5 at First UMC 961 Valley Street in Manchester. Everyone is invited to attend. District Superintendent Rev. Taesung Kang will lead the cluster in a Holy Conferencing worship service and lead the individual churches in the business portion of the conference. Committee chairpersons should have their forms submitted through the church dashboard on the conference website www.neumc.org no later than one week before the church conference.

ST. JAMES COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

Church Work Day: Saturday, October 7 from 9 am to noon

Submitted by Dick Wallace

Church work days are a great way to give a helping hand and enjoy spending time with your friends from church. This month we will focus on overall cleaning including floors.

OUTREACH



Food Pantry News

Submitted by Julie and Olivia Gage

The number of families that the Merrimack Community Food Pantry serves is on the rise. During the month of August, we served 258 clients consisting of 118 households with a total of 3-5 family members. Of those 258 clients, 28% were children and 26% were seniors. We welcomed 14 new clients during the month of August. We are grateful for donations of produce from the Depot Farm Stand and weekly donations from Shaw's, Hannaford and New Hampshire Food Bank.

We are planning ahead for the Scouting for Food event and Thanksgiving Basket distribution in November.

HUB NEWS

The St. James HUB has had a very busy spring and summer this year. We started the season with our Health Kit drive in April and collected enough money through the generous donations of our parishioners to assemble over 347 kits. We've verified 750 hygiene kits collected at annual conference in June. This means that every kit must be taken apart to make sure each kit is correct then reassembled. We also have 135 hygiene kits from the Green Mountain HUB that have already been verified and await shipping to PA.

Thank you for your contributions to UMCOR

Cheryl Barb HUB Coordinator 603-494-1959 WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Greater Nashua CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 22, 2023

NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Join our Crop Hunger Walk Team

This year's Greater Nashua Crop Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 22. Join us as we raise funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need for today and sustainable food security for tomorrow. Register to walk with the St. James United Methodist Church team or make a donation on the Greater Nashua Crop Hunger walk website:

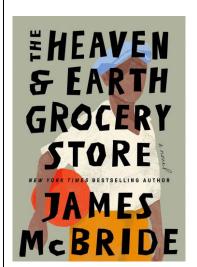
https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/nashuanh.

Place: beginning and ending at Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street in Nashua.

Time: Registration is from 12 to 1pm with opening ceremonies at 1pm and stepping out at 1:30pm followed by a celebration under the tent at Temple Beth Abraham.

The CROP Walk is a fundraiser for Church world service, a faith based humanitarian agency. To learn more about Church World Service, visit their website: https://cwsglobal.org.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



October Book Club: The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride.

This was a book that was requested for our Summer Book Club but it hadn't come out yet. It's out now so we will read this on our own and then **meet** *once* on Wednesday October 25th at 7pm to discuss. Please purchase/acquire a book on your own. You can find it on Amazon at this link here. Some books are available to borrow through the Merrimack Public Library interlibrary loan system.

Contact the church office or sign up on the bulletin board in the office hallway so we can send you the Zoom invitation for the discussion.

"In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe.

As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us."

FELLOWSHIP



Monthly Breakfast

The St. James United Methodist Men (UMM) would love to have you join them for breakfast on the first Saturday of every month. RSVP to George Fisher at fishergf@comcast.net so he knows how many people to expect.

Date: Saturday, October 7

Time: 8:00 am

Place: Mary Ann's Diner, 1 Craftsman Lane, Amherst

Second Annual Trunk or Treat Sunday, October 29 at 2:00 pm

Gather in our church parking lot, decorate your open car trunk or tailgate and hand out treats for the kids. Kids and adults are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes. Bring your own treats to hand out to the kids. Trick or treating starts at 2:00, so arrive a little early to set up your trunk decorations. Looking for trunk decorating ideas? Here are some photos from last year.







Help us make the Harvest Fair a Success

- Please bring in your completed crafts, jewelry, books, puzzles, yard sale items, gift baskets and gift certificates as soon as you can. We will find a place to store the items until the fair.
- Harvest Fair Dates and Times: Fair set-up will start on Thursday October 19 at 2:00, and continue through Friday. We need help setting up tables and chairs, and getting tents in place. Silent Auction items must arrive by Thursday evening. We will continue to accept other donations through Saturday morning at 9:00. Doors will open at 9:00 sharp on Saturday. Last year, we had a waiting line to get in. Let's hope for the same this year.
- If you have questions, contact Lesley Fallu, fallu@comcast.net, or Brenda DuLong, bsdulong@gmail.com



9a - 2p

Saturday St. James UMC Oct 21st 646 DW Highway Merrimack, NH

Homemade Baked Goods, Candy, & Soups Homemade Crafts, Silent Auction, & Yard Sale Books, DVDs, CDs, Puzzles, & more!



Breakfast served 9:00 to 11:00

Muffins & Cinnamon Rolls Lunch served 1:00 to 1:00 Corn Chowder & Hot dogs



Roast Pork Dinner

It's back! Mark your calendars for the Roast Pork Dinner on Saturday, October 28, from 5:00 – 7:00. Tickets are \$15. Tickets will be available soon. We need people to set-up, to work in the kitchen, to serve, and to clean-up. Sign-up near the church office if you can help. See Lesley Fallu if you have any questions.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Zis-Sweeney & St. Laurent Funeral Home Open House

26 Kinsley St. Nashua, NH Thursday, October 12 from 12 pm to 4 pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

In a letter from Chelsea Graves, one of the Funeral Directors at Zis-Sweeney & St. Laurent Funeral Home, she writes, "Over my past 7 years in helping serve the Nashua community during their time of need, it became apparent that people are uncomfortable being in funeral homes and were unsure about the many different ways they can honor a loved one. Therefore we will be holding an open house at the funeral home where people can explore the funeral home and ask the questions they may have regarding funeral traditions, celebrations of life, the power of prearranging and Veteran benefits all while in a relaxed environment. Our intentions are to help make the public more comfortable about funeral homes and be aware of "what is a myth and what is true" regarding the funeral industry." At the open house, you can view the flexible chapel and newly remodeled memorial event space and learn of the many ways they can help you create a memorable ceremony to bring comfort to you and those you love.

Contact information: ZisSweeneyFuneralHome.com or 603-882-3501



The Town of Merrimack's Annual Halloween Party returns to Wasserman Park on Saturday, October 28th, 2023 for it's 31st year!

This year's event will feature a wide variety of free games, crafts, face painting, food (for sale), costume contest and much more which are provided by our local businesses & community partner organizations. These activities will run from 12:00 - 3:00 pm at Wasserman Park. The event is held outdoors.

Costume Contest Schedule: 1:15 pm Ages 0-4, 1:30 pm Ages 5-7, 1:45 pm Ages 8-12, 2:00 pm Family Groups New! Pumpkin Race Derby - We're adding a new element to this year's event with a Pumpkin Race Car Derby. The rules are simple: build a Derby Racer with a small pumpkin by putting two axles through a pumpkin and attaching the wheels. At race time, put your Derby Racer in the starting block, and let 'er roll!. Race begins at 2:15 pm.

Check out our blogs on stewardship of the environment — 2

October 2023



New England Conference

The United Methodist Church

Connected is a publication of the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church. This monthly insert is designed put Conference news directly into the hands of our local church members.

Find more at www.neumc.org.



Memorial Service for Bishop Devadhar is Oct. 28

The New England Conference will hold a Memorial Service for Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, who died July 18, 2023, at 1 pm on Saturday, Oct. 28 at Wesley UMC, 79 Clinton St., Concord, NH. The service will be streamed live on the church's YouTube channel.

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling will be preaching. Clergy are invited to robe with white stoles. You can find the details, including the live stream link (to be posted closer to the date) on our website.

The Hope Secondary School (https:// www.hopesschoolbeitjala.com/in) Bethlehem was deeply important to Bishop

Devadhar, and was always a stop for pilgrims who traveled with him to the Holy Land. You are invited to make a donation to Hope School in the bish-



op's honor by scanning the QR code or visiting the information on our website.



Conference welcomes new DSs

Clergy and laity from the Katahdin District gathered in person and online to welcome their new District Superintendent Rev. Rick McKinley on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023. The Commonwealth East District welcomed their new DS, Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023 at Wilmington UMC.

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson described Rev. Santos Digan as someone who "loves Jesus," and her mission, the bishop said, "is to let people know and experience the grace and love of that Jesus."

"I chose Rev. Digan as superintendent on the Commonwealth East District because of her vast experience in the Boston area," Bishop Johnson said. "She represents the office of bishop, and I am confident that she will do amazing work here among you.

"And I call on all of you to give her your utmost support and prayers as she gives leadership in these unique and interesting times."

In her sermon titled "Our Story Continues," Rev. Santos Digan offered some of the lessons in the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-31), which she said is not just a story of hurt, but also of hope and healing.

"We need to be grounded in the Word.



Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan

We need to be grounded in the love of God so there will always be a spring of living water that is pouring out of us, so that our story can continue," Rev. Santos Digan said.

Bishop Johnson said she chose Rev. McKinley to lead the Katahdin District "because of his love for ministry in the state of Maine."

Continued on page 2



Rev. Rick McKinley



www.neumc.org/news

Environmental stewardship

Check out our blogs

Want to learn more about what you can do to combat climate change?

The New England Conference has the denomination's only Climate Care Coordinator. Grace Pugh Hubbard joined the staff earlier this year. Her new role is to help us find resources and practices that we can adopt to protect our environment as well as offer opportunities for advocacy.

Hubbard and retired elder Rev. Kim Hornung-Marcy both write monthly blogs that offer lots of info on how we as individuals and congregations can be better stewards of God's creation.

Rev. Hornung-Marcy's blog is Go Green, Save Money and Save the Earth

Hubbard's blog is Creation Care Corner: Where stewardship meets sustainability

Read both blogs at https://www.neumc.org/blogs

The Conference Board of Church & Society has curated a page those who want to be involved in fighting climate change on our website. The pages include ideas and resources for advocacy both from within The UMC and from other sources.



Scan the QR code or www.neumc.org/creationcare

Reach out Grace Pugh Hubbard Climate Care Coordinator climate@neumc.org (978) 682-8055, Ext. 903

From our DCM

The Rev. We Hyun Chang began his work as Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM) in an acting ca-

pacity on Jan. 11, 2023, while still serving as Commonwealth East District
Superintendent, but he was officially welcomed into his role as DCM on Sept. 7 at an installation service with Conference staff and Cabinet.

us. If we do connection well – prayerfully, humbly, and collaboratively – we will still do the same work (that sometimes makes you sigh, tired, say, 'what the heck am I doing here?') But if we connection well, if we do

The work before us may be challenging, Rev. Chang said, but how we feel about it makes all the difference.

"It's one thing to do messy, difficult work. It's another thing to do messy difficult work and feel terrible. It's another thing to do messy, diffi-



"I think that's what connection does for

us. If we do connection bly, and collaboratively we will still do the same work (that sometimes makes you sigh, tired, say, 'what the heck am I doing here?') But if we connection well, if we do communication well, if we do collaboration well with humility and respect, then we'll feel something good about it, because we're part of the force that will create something new.

"I think that's what we're here to do and something I hope that I'll be part of," Rev. Chang said.

Conference welcomes new District Superintendents

Continued from page 1

"His understanding of church growth and leadership development make him a perfect match for the needs of this particular district," the bishop said.

Rev. McKinley's sermon titled "Bright Light Living" was based on John 12:20-26 and Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world."

"Truly I tell you unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" – John 12:24.

"This is a really powerful metaphor Jesus uses here," Rev. McKinley said. "Now I don't know about you, but dying for most people means one thing: the end. "But Jesus seems to be saying something very different. The grain of wheat doesn't actually die does it? It becomes something else

"It turns out that being a church is being in the business of change," he said.

"People who follow Jesus we have to be ready to embrace change. It's not change for change sake ... we're changing toward something – to become like Christ," he said. "To become like Christ is to live our lives the way Jesus would live our lives if Jesus were

Scan the QR code or visit www.neumc.org/ news to read the full stories and see photos



Let's Connect

us."

Do you have a story to share? A feature idea? A question to ask? Contact Beth DiCocco, Conference Director of Communications, at communicate@neumc.org.or (978) 682-8055 ext. 150

SMALL BLESSINGS



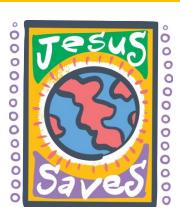
An important part of missions is prayerfully supporting the church. Use this activity to guide your family's prayer time.

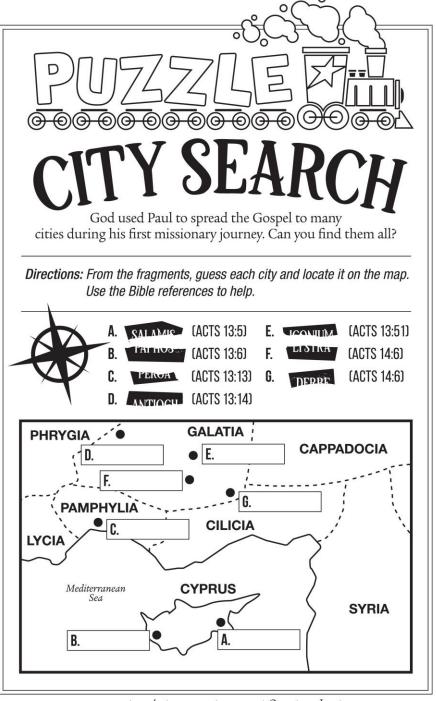
What you need:

- Plastic bag (large zippered)
- Permanent marker
- Bandage
- Toy plane
- Heart-shaped drawing or toy
- Spoon
- Coin
- · Hot-sauce packet

What you do:

- 1. Label the bag with details about the missionaries you'll be praying for (names, location, specific needs).
- 2. Add small prayer-prompt objects to guide your prayer time (bandage = health, plane = travel, heart = relationships, spoon = cultural connection, coin = finances, hot sauce = boldness).
- 3. Include other objects that will prompt prayer for missionaries' specific needs.
- 4. Place the bag where it will remind your family to pray regularly.





Answers: Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	2	3 8:00am Fit & Strong 8:00am Office Administrator vacation 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	8:00am Office Administrator vacation 7:00pm Take this Bread book study	5 8:00am Fit & Strong 8:00am Office Administrator vacation	6 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7 8:00am Monthly Breakfast
8 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	9	10 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	11	12 8:00am Fit & Strong	13 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	14
15 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	16	8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm SPRC Meeting	18	19 8:00am Fit & Strong 1:00pm Dress sewing group	20 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21 9:00am Harvest Fair
22 9:30am Worship 12:00pm CROP Walk 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	23	24 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm Trustees Meeting	25 7:00pm October Book Club	26 8:00am Fit & Strong	27 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	28 1:00pm Bishop Devadhar memorial service 5:00pm Roast Pork Church Supper
29 9:30am Worship 2:00pm Trunk or Treat 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	30	31 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry	1	2 8:00am Fit & Strong	3 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4 8:00am Monthly Breakfast