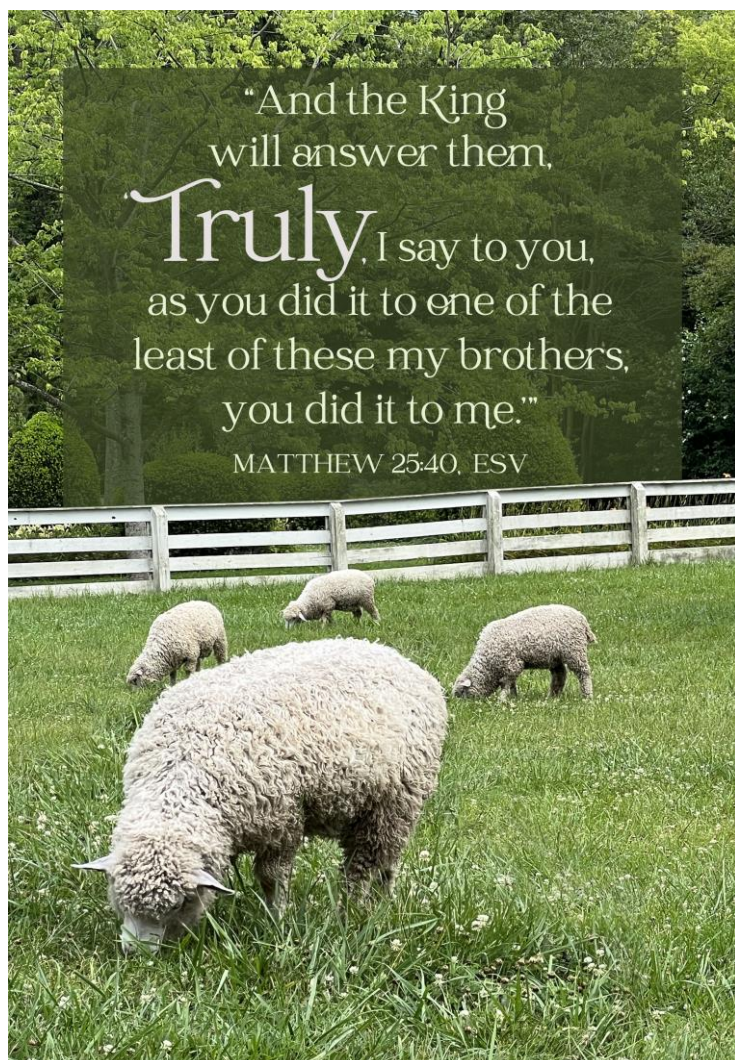


# Opus Christi Works of Christ

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

**Contact Us:**  
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Facebook: St. James UMC  
Prayer Request email: [sjprayerchain@gmail.com](mailto:sjprayerchain@gmail.com)

**Building Christian Community Within and Beyond the Church**



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## Pastor's Message



*"The Sorrowful Saint" by Scott Erickson*

November 1st is known as All Saints Day. When we think of "saints" we often think of official saints in the Catholic Church; people like Saint Anthony (the saint of lost items) or Mother Theresa. However, when we celebrate All Saints Day in the United Methodist Church, saints can really be anyone that has gone on before us who left a lasting impact with the way they lived their lives in faith and in love. Saints can be related to you, they can be people who were part of your congregation, they can be historical figures who worked for peace and justice, or really anyone that lived their life with love as a core value. We call this group of saints throughout time and space "The Great Cloud of Witnesses" and we invoke their presence every time we share in Holy Communion together.

As we prepare to celebrate All Saints Day this coming Sunday (November 5th), I was reminded of this striking image created by Scott Erickson called "The Sorrowful Saint." This image was originally created live during a worship service following the shooting of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling as well as the retaliatory shooting of five Dallas Police Officers in 2016. The unnamed saint in this image is weeping over the violence and hatred in our world and a plant is sprouting up from the saint's tears. It's a striking image as it represents both sorrow and the potential for hope and new life that can come even in the midst of sorrow.

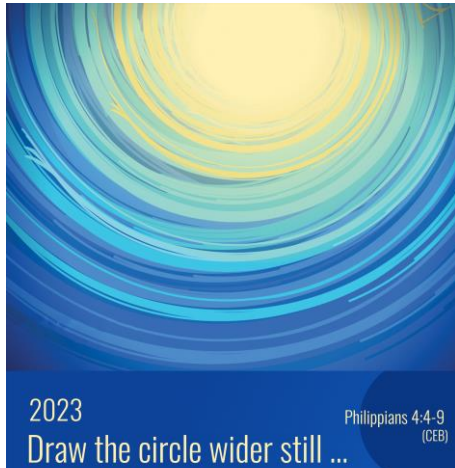
Unfortunately since 2016, there have been countless mass shootings with one coming too close for comfort in Lewiston, Maine this past week. On top of that sorrow, we hear the news from Israel Palestine where thousands of people are being killed as war rages on. I can only imagine how many sorrowful saints there are, tears pouring down on our world, as we ask God "why?" or "how long until things change?"

And yet this image also has hope in the sprout growing from the saint's tears. With all the saints mourning our human idolatry of guns and violence I can only imagine the garden that must be growing from their tears. I have certainly cried my own garden from tears recently; and yet there's hope. There's hope in the thousands of people that gathered for a vigil in Lewiston this past weekend. There's hope in the laughter of kids getting ready for trick-or-treating as I write this. There's hope in the embrace of family members. There's hope in knowing that we have work to do, but that we have a legacy of saints behind us to guide us into that work of new life and rebuilding. So I invite you, after you have cried your tears, to pray and think about what YOU can do to foster those sprouts in your family, in this congregation, in your community, in your state, in your country, in your world. May this sorrowful saint be a blessing to you and an inspiration to take action for the transformation of the world. Amen.

Pastor Annie



## WORSHIP



### 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.

Parking: There is limited parking that is a block away from the church. There are a few spots near the church for those with limited mobility. Please don't use them unless you need them.

There will be a table for cookies. They welcome anyone to bring cookies to share.

Here is the Zoom link for people to join the meeting online:

<https://somos.zoom.us/j/88170253427?pwd=T2k49ajYl9V3Re2oCj0fD6KosKejnp.1>

Tuesday, November 21st @ 7:00pm  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
110 Concord St. Nashua

**Merrimack Faith  
Community  
Thanksgiving Service**

Come join friends of other faiths for a service of gratitude and also hear from Brigid's House of Hope! We will be collecting non-perishable food items and other wish list items for Brigid's House of Hope. There will be light refreshments following the service.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY



### Welcome Baby!

Congratulations to Melinda and Dan Schreffler on the birth of their son, Maxwell Augustus. Melinda and Dan are happy to report that all are doing well.

### Request for Photos

Joe Marrone is putting together a scrap book with photos of the wood items he has made over the years. If you purchased one of his wood items at a Church Fair, he would like to have a photo of it. Let him know at [joe\\_marrone@comcast.net](mailto:joe_marrone@comcast.net) or call 603-494-2985. Thanks.

## OUTREACH

### Outreach Team Hats and Mittens Drive

During the month of November, the Outreach Team will be collecting hats and mittens which will be distributed to students at Merrimack public schools.



### Scouting for Food – November 4, 2023

Did you realize that one of every three people served by food banks are children? It is reported today nearly one of four people in soup kitchen lines is likely to be a child. More than one in three households being helped by local food banks and pantries includes children. This year's "Scouting for Food" effort will benefit more than 150 pantries, kitchens and closets throughout New Hampshire.

On Saturday, October 28, Scouts will deliver Scouting for Food door hangers throughout local neighborhoods. On the following Saturday, November 4, Scouts will return to collect the donations.

### Volunteers Needed

The Merrimack Community Food Pantry at St. James will be one of the recipients of the donated food. The food pantry is looking for volunteers to help check expiration dates and sort the food so they can restock their shelves. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Pick a time slot that works for you between 8:30 am and 2:00 pm.





Join us each month for an informational/conversational event for older adults in the Greater Nashua area. Presenters include agencies that support older adults and organizations that offer opportunities where volunteers can make a difference in their communities.

## Next Coffee & Causes: **Veterans Services**

**Veterans Service Officers** from the **NH Division of Veterans Services** will share ways in which they assist NH veterans and/or their dependents in securing their federal or state veterans benefits available to them under the law. VSOs provide free assistance to veterans or their family members in filing claims for compensation or pension benefits with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as providing assistance concerning a variety of topics, including available state benefits, disability compensation and pension, survivors' benefits, burial benefits, and education benefits, the NH State Veterans Cemetery, and the NH Veterans Home.

Learn more about **Operation Delta Dog**. The Hollis-based organization rescues homeless dogs and trains them to be service dogs for veterans living with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and/or Military Sexual Trauma (MST).

NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFICE  
OF VETERANS SERVICES



**Friday, November 3, 2023**

**Amherst Library, 14 Main St., Amherst / 11:30am-1:00pm**

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/Nov-Coffee>

For more information contact United Way at [info@unitedwaynashua.org](mailto:info@unitedwaynashua.org)  
or (603) 882-4011

**LIVE UNITED**

Because Great things happen  
when we LIVE UNITED

## Operation Care for Troops

Submitted by Debbe Walter

Operation Care for Troops Holiday Packing will take place during the week leading to Veterans' Day (Nov 8-Nov 11). We will be sending packages to over 1400 deployed service members. In each package we include cards and letters from grateful community members. If you are willing to write a short message and sign some cards, please see me. If you have any Christmas cards that you are not using, I will be happy to take them as my goal is to write 1500 cards for the mailing.

Another way to contribute is by donating your leftover Halloween candy, you can bring it to church on November 5th or text me, Debbe Walter (603-218-9275) and I will pick it up on November 1st or 2nd. For more information about Operation Care for Troops, visit [www.octnh.org](http://www.octnh.org).

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



### Advent Book Study: *The Gift of the Nutcracker* by Matt Rawle

Four Wednesdays during Advent – November 29, December 6, 13 and 20 at 7 pm via Zoom.

"The Nutcracker" is a delightful and whimsical Christmas classic that children and adults look forward to every year. First performed in 1892, the music, dance, and story of this classic hold a special place in our cultural Christmas celebrations. In *The Gift of the Nutcracker*, Matt Rawle, author of *The Redemption of Scrooge*, explores the story to help us understand God's greatest gift of the Christ child, and the kingdom Christ came to establish. Books are available in the church office for \$15. 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.

## 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](mailto:fishergf@comcast.net) so he knows how many people to expect.

Date: Saturday, November 4

Time: 8:00 am

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

## **Fellowship Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed**

Submitted by Lesley Fallu

After the worship service each Sunday, everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for coffee, lemonade, a snack, and a great opportunity to visit with others in the congregation. Committee members make the coffee and bring the snacks. Each committee is responsible for a month, with other volunteers taking over for the summer. Some committees just don't have enough members to fill a month. Some people serve on multiple committees and provide snacks several times during the year. Are you able to help? You don't need to be on a committee to volunteer for coffee hour. It just involves bringing in a snack to share— not necessarily dozens of goodies! If you are able to give us a hand, please email Lesley Fallu at [fallu@comcawst.net](mailto:fallu@comcawst.net). Thanks!

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

### **Harvest Fair 2023 Update**

Submitted by Lesley Fallu and Brenda DuLong

What a great day we had! Thanks to our volunteers and to the many donations received, we raised about \$7,200 for the ministries of St. James, up 10% over last year. In spite of overcast and rainy weather, we were busy all day, from breakfast through lunch, and everything in between. Many people commented on the decorations and the friendly greeting they received, especially by our resident scarecrow at the front door. It really was an all-church event and we are grateful for everyone who volunteered that day, as well as those who worked for weeks before and after to make the fair a huge success. It's never too early to start thinking about next year, so please pass on your suggestions to Lesley Fallu and Brenda DuLong to get ready for the



St. James will host a blood drive on  
Wednesday, November 15, 2023 from 12:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients. If you are an eligible type O, B- or A- donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedcrossBlood.org](http://RedcrossBlood.org) and enter: SAINTJAMES to schedule an appointment.



November 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](http://www.neumc.org).

## Mission of Peace returns for 2024

Mission of Peace will return in 2024 when the Northeastern Jurisdiction CYM sponsors a trip to Puerto Rico.

Youth in grades 9-12 are eligible.  
Approximate dates are Feb. 14-23, 2024. **Registration deadline is Nov. 15, 2023**

Questions?

Contact Heather Stierheim,  
MOP Coordinator,  
at [hstierheim@gmail.com](mailto:hstierheim@gmail.com)

Find the registration info on our website at [www.neumc.org/mop](http://www.neumc.org/mop)



## Advent study features UM missionaries

"Welcome to the Advent Journey with Missionaries through Scripture and Story" features NEAC elders and missionaries the Revs. Dan and Courtney Randall.

They write: "We hope this study will strengthen the connections in the global body of Christ by growing the awareness and support of congregations with Christian siblings in other places through incorporating missionaries into worship and small groups in the reading scripture and the sharing of their stories."



Revs. Courtney and Dan Randall



**FIND THE ADVENT STUDY AT**

<https://sites.google.com/view/ummissionaryadventstudy>



## Sponsor a missionary

Your church can sponsor a GBGM missionary in Covenant Relationship. Rev. Gil Lee, pictured here with Bishop Peggy Johnson, is our Mission Secretary. He is happy to tell you more about it

Reach him via email at [gilpyo.lee@gmail.com](mailto:gilpyo.lee@gmail.com)



## Upcoming webinars

**7 pm Monday, Nov. 13**

The newly formed Recovery Committee presents this pre-holiday event to help make those of us in the church more aware of alcohol issues that manifest for many people around the holidays and how to support people at this time of the year.

On the panel for this presentation will be a young man who will talk about his personal experience being in recovery from alcoholism and what can be helpful for those in recovery around the holidays.

**7 pm Thursday, Nov. 16**

Join members of the New England Conference Insurance Committee, who will offer information about the dramatic increase in property and liability insurance rates for our churches and other properties, as well as options for payment plans. Visit the calendar for details/links.



GET DETAILS AND THE LINKS  
[www.neumc.org/events](http://www.neumc.org/events)

## Northeastern Jurisdictional news

### NEJ Boundaries Task Force considers episcopal areas

The Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) Boundaries Task Force met Sept. 21-22, 2023, and reviewed a survey of members of the NEJ.

The Task Force has been working since last year to study the jurisdiction and come up with possible scenarios for configuring the episcopal areas in the future.

"Our conversations primarily centered on the data collected from the jurisdictional survey. The survey responses provided valuable insights into the demographics and perspectives of the Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) members," writes Rev. Dr. Lydia E. Muñoz, Chair of Boundaries Committee/NEJ Boundaries Task Force.

While the survey gives an idea of what people across the

NEJ are thinking, the final decision will not be made until the NEJ Conference (July 8-11, 2024). Decisions made by the General Conference, which will take place April 23-May 3, 2024, may also have an impact; that's where decisions about the denomination's budget, number of bishops in each jurisdiction, etc., will be made.

According to Dr. Muñoz, the Task Force expects "to compile all findings and present a comprehensive report to the jurisdiction by December."

"To ensure a more inclusive and equitable approach, additional listening sessions and data collection processes are currently being planned," Dr. Muñoz writes.

Click to see the [NEJ survey summary report](#) or visit [www.neumc.org/news](http://www.neumc.org/news) to find this story

### Let's Connect

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](mailto:communicate@neumc.org) or (978) 682-8055 ext. 150



Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.

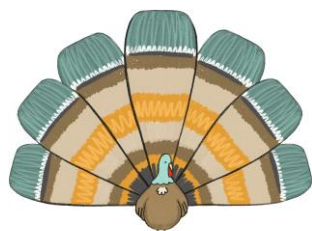


### What you need:

- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarn (different colors)

### What you do:

1. In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle to the plate's edge.
2. Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the plate off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
3. Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
4. Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the yarn in place as you spread the length over and under each side of the plate.
5. Switch colors to make a pattern. Keep the yarn tight as you weave up the sides.
6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share your craft with a friend!



GIVE THANKS

# PUZZLE

## THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

*Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.*

This becomes a plant \_\_\_\_\_



Willing to give \_\_\_\_\_

The result of planting seeds \_\_\_\_\_



The act of gratitude \_\_\_\_\_

Food made from wheat \_\_\_\_\_



Now he who supplies \_\_\_\_\_ to the sower and \_\_\_\_\_ for food will also



supply and increase your store of \_\_\_\_\_ and will enlarge the \_\_\_\_\_



of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be

\_\_\_\_\_ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result



in \_\_\_\_\_ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV



Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thanksgiving





# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 9:30am Worship 2:00pm Trunk or Treat 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Outreach Team meeting	<b>3</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 8:00am Monthly Breakfast 8:30am Scouting for Food
<b>5</b> 9:30am Worship 3:00pm Annual Church Conference 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong	<b>10</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> <b>Veterans Day</b>
<b>12</b> 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>15</b> 12:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive	<b>16</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 1:00pm Dress sewing group	<b>17</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 7:00pm SPRC Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	<b>29</b> 7:00pm Advent Book Study	<b>30</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong	<b>1</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 8:00am Monthly Breakfast