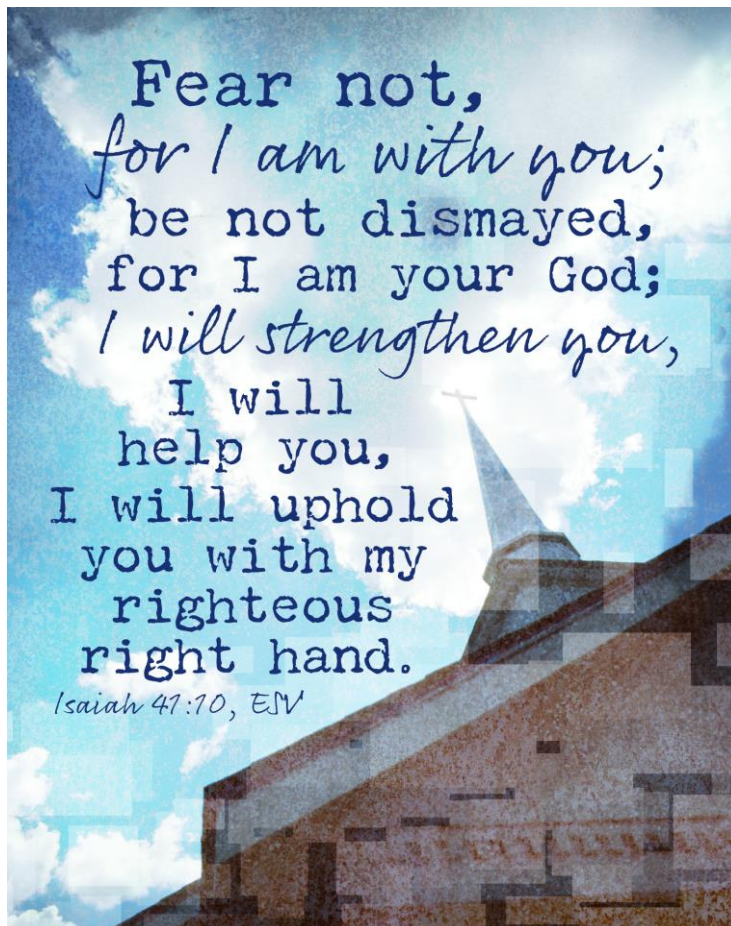


Opus Christi Works of Christ

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



While it is true that I get to talk to God for my job (and do often), it is definitely not the case that pastors only work 1 day a week. It's almost like that myth everyone believes as a child that their teachers live at school because that is when and where you see them. I see most of you on Sunday mornings during worship so it can certainly feel like I only work on Sundays. However, there is so much more that goes into the calling/job of Pastor and the calling of being a Christian. As followers of Jesus, do you only pray, worship, read the Bible, serve others on Sundays? No! Your faith follows you into the week, and so does mine on top of my role as your Pastor.

So, let's pull back the mysterious curtain to see what a Pastor does all week when they aren't leading worship on a Sunday*:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pray - Sermon/ Children's Message Final touches - Lead Worship - Address Needs - Fellowship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pray - Emails - Read - Process Scripture for next week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pray - Emails - Office Hours - Visits - Meetings - Worship Planning - Phone calls

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pray - Book/Bible Study prep - Process sermon material - Meetings - Emails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pray - Office Hours - Visits - Meetings - Worship Planning - Event Planning - Meeting Prep - Phone Calls 	SABBATH	SABBATH (Church events often happen on Saturdays so I don't take this day off very often)

*All of the listed items are vague and change week to week; they each involve their own prep time and communicating with others who are involved

Other

Continuing Education requirements, District Committees, Conference Responsibilities, Mentoring Licensed Local Pastors and Candidates for Ministry, Pastoral Care/Phone Calls, Funerals/Weddings, Visitations, Stay up to date with community and news events, Reports, Reading, etc.

WOAH! That's so much and doesn't even cover everything I do as my schedule changes daily! Plus I'm a human just like you, so I have to keep house, run errands, keep up with friendships and relationships, etc. On top of that I'm a mom to a 4 (AND A HALF) year old who keeps me very busy. My spouse also works full time and has a more set schedule, so I squeeze in all the above work while my child is in childcare/preschool, and have to do the rest of my work at home while watching him.

I'm not sharing this with you because I want you to feel bad for me or leave me alone...it is my job and my calling as your Pastor to care for you and empower you to help lead our congregation! I share this because I find people still think the above comic is true and genuinely don't know what Pastors do with their time. I also share this because when I am in the office that is the PERFECT time to come talk to me. You are not interrupting me when you visit during my Office Hours (TuThu 9-12)...if I didn't want to be interrupted I would work from home. I am there for you to say hi, process something, ask questions, and more so please stop in! If those times don't work, you can always give me a call, text, email, or find me in person to schedule a better time for you.

- Pastor Annie



New England Conference

The United Methodist Church

Introducing Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

Excerpts from neumc.org news article dated July 16, 2024

The plenary portion of 2024 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference concluded on July 12 with the announcement of the episcopal assignments for the next quadrennium.

The New England Conference welcomes [Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton](#). Bishop Bickerton will serve the NEAC and the New York Conference. Friday morning, members of the delegations and others from the two conferences came together to meet each other and have time with the bishop and his wife, Sally.



Bishop Bickerton said he has two priorities:

- How may I serve you?
- What can I do to complement what you're doing so the body of Christ can be developed even further?

"We have work to do, and there's a lot of gas in this tank," he said. "I'm not shy about work. Both of us need to understand that it's going to be different. It's going to be an adjustment. We will find our way. ... Let's figure that out together."

Some of that work was summed up as part of the litany Friday morning, which included missional goals and priorities identified by the Northeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy (COE) with input from the Conference profiles, etc.

For the New England/New York Episcopal Area they are:

1. Lead prophetically by centering intersectional justice in our multicultural and multilingual contexts
2. Cast vision for a just future that embraces radical inclusion, empowers our LGBTQIA beloveds, and actively dismantles racism and sexism
3. Nurture cooperative ministries and care for the diverse needs of urban, suburban, and rural contexts
4. Guide the healing journey from the traumas and painful losses experienced in recent years
5. Empower lay and clergy leaders through intentional collaboration by building trust



Granite District

New England Annual Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Farewell and Thank You from DS Taesung Kang

June 18, 2024

Dear Beloved Members of the Granite District,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As I write this letter, my heart overflows with deep gratitude. After seven years of serving as your District Superintendent, the time has come for me to bid farewell to this remarkable district and embark on the next chapter of my ministry journey.

Serving the Granite District, with its 81 diverse churches, has been one of the greatest honors and blessings of my life. You have welcomed me into your congregations, shared your joys and challenges, and allowed me to walk alongside you in your ministry journeys. Over these years, I have witnessed the incredible ways in which God has moved among us. Each of your churches has contributed uniquely to the tapestry of our district. Together, we have navigated uncharted pathways, celebrated milestones, and faced unforeseen challenges, always trusting in God's guidance and grace. Your faithful commitment to the mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church has been an inspiration and a testament to the power of God's love at work in New Hampshire and beyond.

As I transition to a new appointment, I carry with me the memories of our shared experiences and the lessons we have learned together. I am confident that the Granite District will continue to experience new possibilities and signs of hope under the guidance of your new interim District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Jackie Brannen.

While this marks the end of my tenure as your District Superintendent, it does not mark the end of our connection. We are bound together by the love of Christ and the mission of the United Methodist Church. I will continue to hold you in my prayers, and I ask that you hold Mina and myself in your prayers as well.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all now and forevermore.

With deep gratitude and love,

Rev. Taesung Kang

A Message from Interim District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Brannen

July 5, 2024

Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be. Job 8:7

Dear Friends in the Granite District,

I have been reflecting on just how to begin my superintendency with you when I came across this verse from Job. Job is not always my favorite book of the Bible, but this verse caught my attention in its simplicity and in its message. I am not sure how prosperous we will all be at the end of my interim service, but I am on board with starting with humility. I recognize the good ministry that Taesung and you have had together over the last seven years and pray that it can be a steppingstone for our ministry going forward.

We are in the midst of many changes as people of faith. The change in Granite Superintendent, a new Bishop coming in September and the ramifications that our UMC is experiencing due to the decisions made at our last General Conference, all conspire to make the next several months both exciting and challenging. Change brings out the adventurousness within us as we try new ways of doing ministry and it can also bring out tensions as we try to see life with a new perspective.

I have learned over my lifetime as school counselor, foster parent, and pastor, that humility is a good friend to have during seasons of great change. When we can respond with curiosity and creativity rather than judgement, we hopefully will find ourselves less stressed and more open to what God is birthing within and around us.

I humbly ask for your patience with me as I get up to speed in all that I will need to learn to serve you well as your superintendent. I will do my best to use my previous experience with an open heart to the new ways of serving in a new district. As a longtime resident of NH, (I grew up in Nashua, taught school in Pittsfield, Barnstead, Hampton, and Derry, and served churches in Richmond, Chesterfield and Portsmouth), I have a familiarity and love for this great state. I have traveled many of its roads and even worshipped in many of our UMC churches, but I will be looking to each of you to fill in the gaps of my knowledge and to learn more about how God is at work within our churches and communities.

I thank you in advance for your patience as we travel this new road together. I guess Micah might have said it best, if we do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God, we will all find ourselves on the road to joy and peace and maybe even prosperity! I am looking forward to the adventures that await!

Blessings,

Jackie

WORSHIP



We share Bob Hurle's sorrow in the loss of his beloved wife **Joan Hurle** who passed away on July 19, 2024. Joan was a member of the St. James choir and we will miss her beautiful voice. She will especially be missed by her fellow choir members. Her memorial service was held here at St. James Church at 11:00 am on Saturday, July 27.

Our church family mourns the loss of **John Harvell** who passed away on July 15, 2024. John and his wife Carol who passed away in 2011, were members of St. James Church since 1996. He made many valuable contributions while he served on the Board of Trustees. His memorial service will be held here at St. James Church at 10:00 am on Wednesday, August 7 followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.

Alice Louise Yeaton passed away on May 20, 2024. Her memorial service will be held here at St. James Church at 11:00 am on Saturday, August 17 followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.



Welcome Back Brunch Church Service September 8, 2024

Our welcome back church service will take place in Fellowship Hall. We will share a meal while we worship. Watch the bulletin board outside the church office to sign up to bring a dish to share. Sunday school will start the following Sunday so that all family members can participate in this brunch service.

Stay After the Service for Fun with Blowing Bubbles

After the brunch church service come outside where Betty Ann Dudziak invites you to have some fun with blowing bubbles (weather permitting, of course).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

VBS 2024

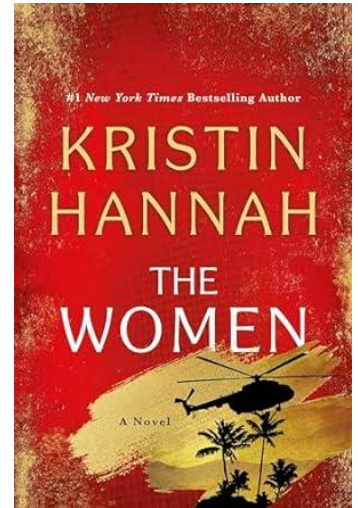


On Friday, July 19 and Saturday, July 20, nine children learned to put their trust in God. We sang, played games, made crafts, ate snacks and participated in interactive bible stories. Thank you to our volunteers: Lisa helped decorate, Joyce, Peggy and Jane prepared meals and snacks, Betty Ann baked cookies, Pastor Annie led the bible stories, Paula was crafts leader, Cheryl was music leader, Robin led games, David was responsible for the campfire on Friday evening, and Sam, Gary, Caitlyn and Niki were our camp counselors.



Summer Reading Virtual Book Club

During the month of August, the summer book club will read *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. *The Women* is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era. The discussion will happen on August 21 at 7pm via Zoom. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact the church office so we can send you the Zoom link. PLEASE SHARE! This is a perfect opportunity to invite a friend to something.



Sunday School Starts September 15




We are looking forward to another fun year of Sunday school at St. James. Our curriculum will be based on the children and youth lessons from Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church. We welcome children ages 3 and up. Online registration is on the church website www.stjames-umchurch.org or contact the church office. See Robin House you are interested in helping out as a Sunday school teacher.

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ??

What kind of birds does God use to supply Elijah with food at the Kerith Ravine?

- A. quails
- B. ravens
- C. eagles
- D. doves



Answer: B (See 1 Kings 17:2-6.)

OUTREACH

Buy a Bag to Support the Food Pantry

Merrimack Community Food Pantry will receive \$1 for each \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag sold throughout August 2024 at the Hannaford store located at 4 Jenkins Road, Bedford NH.



**United Way
of Greater Nashua**

United We Sleep 2024

United We Sleep is in its 8th year of bringing the community together to change lives. For one night in September the community will come together to raise awareness, raise funds for a strong safety net, and learn about the complex issues of homelessness, poverty, and hunger. Hear from experts and discuss with your neighbors what is possible to help end homelessness in Greater Nashua!

What is “United We Sleep”?

United We Sleep To End Hunger & Homelessness is...

- An experiential homelessness scenario which touches hearts & minds
- An evening of engaging learning around causes, scenarios, and pathways out of homelessness and toward economic stability / independence
- A sharing of experiences with local experts
- A unique opportunity to lead and learn by doing
- An opportunity to raise funds to help support local programs which target the elimination of homelessness

For one night in September, you will join dozens of Greater Nashuans in learning about the issues of extreme poverty and exploring pathways to success. You will share stories and learn from local experts as you sleep out in the elements, with one eye open in the cold, and experience a small semblance of what our homeless population experiences day in and day out. You will join together in support of our community in a unique and deeply satisfying way. We invite you to join us this year in Sleeping United to End Hunger & Homelessness.

The funds raised through this event directly support vital programs and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, and poverty in our community. Your participation helps provide shelter, meals, educational opportunities, and much more to those in need.

Here's the link to get started TODAY: <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/sleepout2024>

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, August 3

Time: 8:00 am

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



Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to make coffee and provide refreshments for coffee hour after church during the month of August. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Feel free to use baked goods in kitchen freezer that are marked for coffee fellowship



Merrimack Parks and Rec Summer Concert Series

Come and join the Merrimack Parks and Recreation Department this summer for their free weekly summer Concert Series at Abbie Griffin Park. Concerts are held on Wednesday nights from 6 to 8 pm and each week features a different musical style. Bring blankets or lawn chairs and your dinner and enjoy this free night of entertainment.

Summer with St. James Outings: Join your friends from church when we listen to the Bedford Big Band on August 14 and children's musician Judy Pancoast on August 21. Visit www.merrimackparksandrec.org for the full concert schedule.

In case of inclement weather, check merrimackparksandrec.org or the Merrimack Parks and Rec Facebook page regarding the status of the show.

Fun with the Fisher Cats

One of our Summer with St. James outings was a Fisher Cats ball game on Saturday, July 27. Even though our home team lost 7-0, everyone had a great time cheering for them.





1ST ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF!

Stay tuned for more information
on participating and tickets to attend!

- ✓ 1st Place - \$100 gift card
- ✓ 2nd Place - \$75 gift card
- ✓ 3rd Place - \$50 gift card

St. James United Methodist Church
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SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER, 28TH
3-5 PM

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

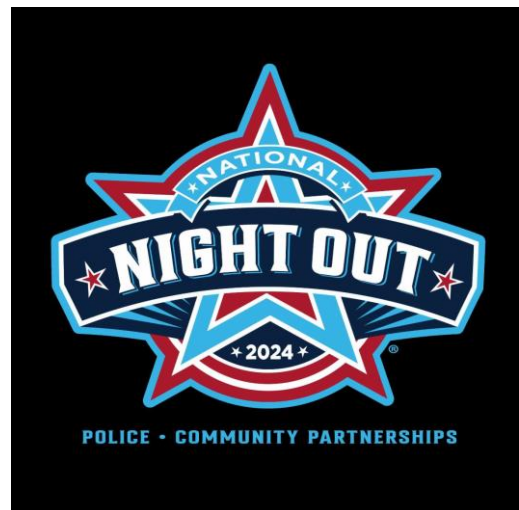


Congratulations to the Happy Couples!

Alexandra Chang and Nathaniel Osher were married here at St. James Church on July 14 with Rev. Annie Baker-Streevy officiating.

Andrew Fallu and Andrea St. Aubin were married on July 27 in Long Island, NY

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



National Night Out with the Merrimack Police Department Tuesday, August 6th 5:30 - 7:00 pm Abbie Griffin Park

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. This is a free event with food, games, crafts, music and more.

HARVEST FAIR



Harvest Fair Update – August 2024

Harvest Fair News: The Harvest Fair is fast approaching. Saturday, October 19, is around the corner. This is a great opportunity to showcase our church to the community. New this year will be representation from the police and fire departments, with trucks and a service dog.

To make this event a success, we need your help.

- Please bring items you are donating to the yard sale/flea market to the undercroft. There are tables set up for your donations. If you cannot get to the undercroft with your items, you can drop them off in the Wesley room.
- If you have books to donate, they can also go to the undercroft on a separate table.
- Are you a crafter? If so, please bring your craft items to the church office. Lesley and Brenda will store them. Remember, for larger crafts, to limit your crafting to 6 – 8 items per craft. If your item is a hot-seller, we can always take orders for more.
- Last, but maybe most importantly, can you donate toward the silent auction. The silent auction has brought in the most money for the last several years. Need ideas? How about some of these: gift cards to local businesses or restaurants; themed baskets; donations from a business that you own or work at; vacation rental week from your time share or property. If you have other ideas for the silent auction, let us know. This part of the fair really brings community people in to the church.

We still need people to chair the Book room and the Candy table. Let us know if you are interested in organizing either of these tables. If you have any ideas or questions, please contact Lesley Fallu (fallu@comcast.net) or Brenda DuLong (bsdulong@gmail.com).

New This Year: a Craft Supplies Table at the Harvest Fair

Do you have any leftover craft supplies or unfinished craft projects? Make room for your new projects by bringing your old unfinished projects and leftover supplies to be sold at the Harvest Fair Craft Supplies Table. Drop them off in the Wesley Room. Make sure to label the bag or box so we know it's for the craft table. Dianne Tate will take them home to sort and organize and store at her house until the fair.



You don't have to visit the beach to make a sandcastle. Make fluffy "moon sand" to build fun structures.

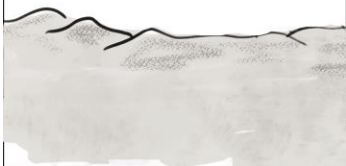
What you need:

- Large bowl
- Wooden spoon
- 8 cups flour
- 1 cup baby oil



What you do:

1. Measure flour into the large bowl. Add baby oil.
2. Mix thoroughly until all the oil is combined and the texture is consistent. If needed, use your hands to knead the mixture.
3. The sand is ready when it sticks together to form a ball when pressed in your hands.
4. Use sand toys and molds to create a sandcastle. Store sand in an airtight container for up to two weeks.



BY THE SEASHORE

The sea and its creatures are evidence of God's intention and purpose in creation.

Directions: Unscramble the words. Then copy the circled letters in order below to complete Psalm 104:24-25, NIV.



DASN
LHSELS
USN
ESED AIS
BHECA
LALUBMER
WRTEA
FRUS
VWSEA



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How many are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you made them _ _ _;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the _ _ _ , vast and spacious,
teeming with _ _ _ _ _ beyond number —
living things both large and small.

Psalm 104:24-25, NIV

Answers: sand, shells, sun, seashore, beach, umbrella, water, surf, waves, all, sea, creatures



AUGUST 2024

Thank you to the volunteers who signed up to provide refreshments following worship during the month of August.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	29	30 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry	31	1 8:00am Fit & Strong	2	3 8:00am Garden Club Plant Sale 8:00am Monthly Breakfast
4 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	5	6 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	7 10:00am John Harvell Memorial Service	8 8:00am Fit & Strong	9	10 2:30pm Rosemary Audette Celebration of Life
11 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	12	13 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	14 6:00pm Concert in the Park	15 8:00am Fit & Strong	16	17 11:00am Louise Yeaton Memorial Service
18 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	19	20 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm SPRC Meeting	21 6:00pm Concert in the Park 7:00pm Summer Book Club	22 8:00am Fit & Strong	23	24
25 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	26	27 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	28	29 8:00am Fit & Strong	30	31