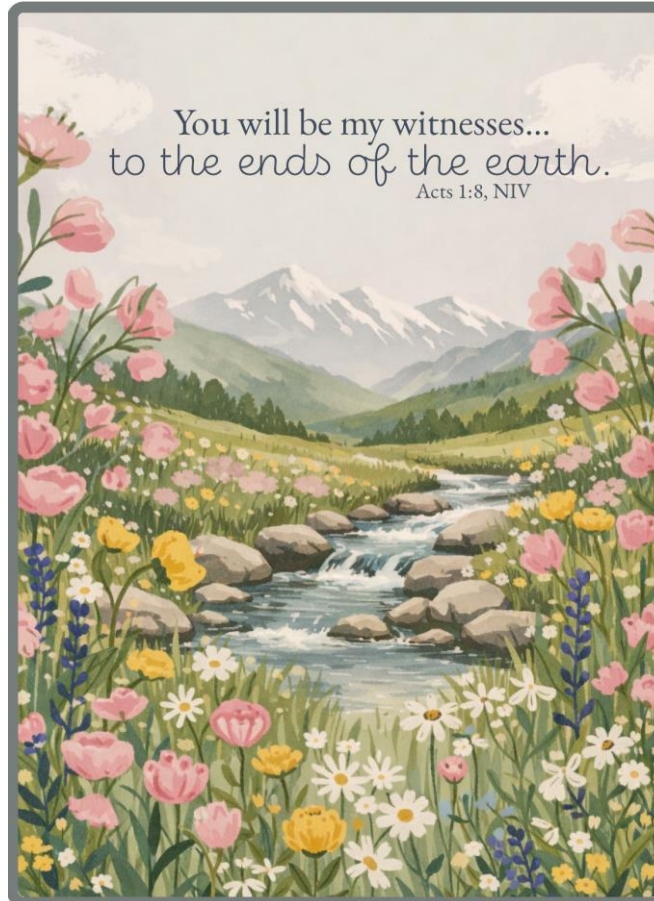


# St. James United Methodist Church

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](mailto:stjamesmrmk@gmail.com)  
[www.stjames-umchurch.org](http://www.stjames-umchurch.org)  
Prayer Request E-mail: [sjprayerchain@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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.

Seventh Sunday of Easter – Ascension Sunday  
May 17, 2026



**ENTRANCE**

GATHERING MUSIC

Choir

GREETING

Rev. Hyuk Seonwoo

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 (UMH 323)

Together

**Everlasting God, Your eternal Christ once dwelt on earth, confined by time and space. Give us faith to discern in every time and place the presence among us of him who is head over all things and fills all, even Jesus Christ our ascended Lord, Amen.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" (TFWS 2088)

Together

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,  
Lord, I lift your name on high.

BREATH PRAYER

Breathe in: "You are lifted," Breathe out: "Lift us up to love."

HYMN FOR ILLUMINATION

"Spirit of the Living God" UMH #393

Together

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Gary Ponder Williams

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 1:1-5, 8-14

Rev. Hyuk Seonwoo and Rev. Gary Ponder Williams

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Put Us In, Coach!"

Rev. Gary Ponder Williams

\*HYMN

"Christ Is Alive!" (UMH 318)

Together

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,  
He comes to claim the here and now and dwell in every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
But daily, in the midst of life, our Savior, in the God-head reigns.

In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
He suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,  
Till earth and all creation ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Hyuk Seonwoo

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!**

**SENDING FORTH**

\*CLOSING HYMN

"He Lives!" (UMH 310)

Together

I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today;  
I know that he is living, whatever foes may say.  
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,  
And just the time I need him, he's always near.

**Refrain**

**He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.**

In all the world around me I see his loving care,  
And though my heart grows weary, I never will despair.  
I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast;  
The day of his appearing will come at last.

**Refrain**

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing  
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!  
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;  
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

**Refrain**

\*DISMISSAL with BLESSING

Rev. Gary Ponder Williams

*The flowers which grace our altar this morning are given to the glory of God by Gary and Jodi Ponder Williams in honor of their 47th wedding anniversary on May 19.*

**Who is helping in worship next week?**

The following people will help worship run smoothly next Sunday May 24.

- Ushers: Doug and Linda Wilson
- Greeters: Joe and Carol Marrone
- Liturgist/Worship Leader: Donna Wallace
- Refreshments: volunteers needed
- Counters: Robin House, Joyce Hawkins, Carol Hurwitch

## Announcements – May 17, 2026

### Coffee Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to make coffee and provide refreshments on May 24, June 7 and June 21. If you can help, please add your name to the sign up sheet on the large green bulletin board in the office hallway.

### Harvest Fair Silent Auction

We are getting an early start on the Silent Auction for the Harvest Fair. Beginning in May, we will have a sign-up sheet after church for items that we are looking for. If everyone in the congregation is able to donate at least one item, we will be well on our way to our goal of 100 items. Thanks for your help. If you have any questions, please contact Lesley Fallu ([fallu@comcast.net](mailto:fallu@comcast.net)) or Brenda DuLong ([bsdulong@gmail.com](mailto:bsdulong@gmail.com)).

### Join Us for Brunch Worship May 31

Our next 5th Sunday of the Month Brunch Worship will be on May 31. The worship service will take place in Fellowship Hall when we will share a meal while we worship. Check the bulletin board outside the church office to sign up to bring a dish to share.

### Brooke's Purses Assembly Event

We have many purses ready to be filled and distributed to area shelters. Please join us downstairs in the food pantry to fill the purses on Sunday, June 7 after church. We also need volunteers on Saturday June 6 at 9:30 am to set up and drivers to deliver the purses to shelters and agencies in Manchester and Nashua. Sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office if you can help deliver the purses. See Betty Ann Dudziak if you have any questions.

### Worship Webinar

The NEAC Board of Discipleship invites you to a Conversation with Daniel Benedict: *"The Basic Pattern of United Methodist Worship – Our Legacy and Invitational Future,"* exploring the history, meaning, and future of *The Basic Pattern of Worship*. This conversation is ideal for pastors, worship leaders, musicians, lay servants, and anyone who wants to deepen their understanding of United Methodist worship.

When: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 6:30 pm

Where: Online via Zoom. Virtual Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98448324219>

**Merrimack Community Food Pantry News:** The pantry continues to serve approximately 60 families each week, helping more than 150 different families each month. We are grateful for the current volunteers and many food donations that we have received this winter, but now we are in desperate need of more volunteers for Mondays and Thursdays. Each week, volunteers pick up food from Shaws (Merrimack), Hannaford (Bedford), and the NH Food Bank (Manchester). Once a month, the volunteers pick up food from The Emergency Food Assistance Program in Manchester. If you can help with any of these pick-ups, please contact Cheryl Barb ([cherab@comcast.net](mailto:cherab@comcast.net)) or Lesley Fallu ([fallu@comcast.net](mailto:fallu@comcast.net)). Thank you!

### It's Time to Register for VBS

At Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS, kids will become challengers, gearing up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith.

To help people manage their busy schedules, St. James will host a weekend VBS. We'll start at 5:00 pm on Friday, July 17 with pizza for dinner followed by Day 1 activities until 7:30 pm. Come back again on Saturday, July 18 from 9 am to 3 pm for more fun. Registration forms are in the church office or visit our online registration webpage for participants and volunteers: <https://stjamesumcmerrimacknh.mycokesburyvbs.com/>. There is also a link to the registration webpage under events on the St. James website [www.stjames-umchurch.org](http://www.stjames-umchurch.org)

**Register for 2026 Summer Camp at Wanakee.**

Registration is now open for the 2026 summer season. Feel free to take a program guide from the church office.