

▲ Rise in body or in spirit
Responses in bold

Gathering Music

Welcome

Introductions

Theme Conversation

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Lighting the Candles

We Sing – Will You Come and See the Light # 96

**Will you come and see the light
from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright,
though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star,
it will show you who you are;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

We gather in Black History Month
to honor truth and celebrate resilience.
We come with gratitude and hope.

Jesus calls us the salt of the earth
and the light of the world.

**We will preserve what is good
and shine where justice is needed.**

Come, let us worship in love.
Amen.

▲ We Sing – Draw the Circle Wide MV # 145

Opening Prayer of Confession (Together)

**O Divine Creator,
source of all life and love,
we come before you in this sacred time of
Black History Month,
grateful for the rich heritage
and profound resilience of Black people
within the United Church of Canada,
who have been a vital part of this community
from its very beginning.**

**We offer our heartfelt lament for the injustices,
systemic racism, and the heavy burdens
of history that have scarred your beloved children.
We grieve the pain, the marginalization,
and the times when the church has failed to fully
embrace their gifts and affirm their inherent worth.
Heal the wounds of the past and present,
and guide us toward true repentance and
reconciliation.**

Silent prayer...

**We turn to you,
knowing that you understand us,
forgive us, and love us like a Mother,
and so we pray with confidence and faith,**

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – Matthew 5: 13-20

Reflection – Here from the Beginning

Reflective Music

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ Hymn – We Are the Light (Tune # 705)

▲ A New Creed – Page # 918

Stories of Mission

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ Hymn – Go to the World # 420

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ Song of Dismissal – I Am the Light of the World # 87

**I am the Light of the World
You people come and follow me.
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.**

**When the song of the angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and the shepherds
have found their way home.
The work of Christmas is begun! R**

*Service and Reflection Adapted from
Here from the Beginning: Salt, Light, and the Stories We Tell. By Rev.
Charmaine Bailey & Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever*

**THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY
This Week at St James – Feb 1 - Feb 7, 2026**

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary	11:00 am
Monday	Carillon Choir	Hall	7:30 pm
Tuesday	Food Bank	Hall	8:30-11 am
Wednesday	Craft Group	Parlour	1:30 pm

Congregational Meeting today, after the service.

What Does Your Minister Do All Day?

Lunch and Learn - February 8, following worship.

As we look to the future of St. James, it's important to talk about expectations for ministry. Everyone brings different hopes and assumptions about what a minister should focus on, and clarity around priorities matters. We will engage in an interactive exercise to explore the many parts of a minister's work and to identify what this congregation believes is most important. The goal is not consensus, but understanding, recognizing that no one minister can do everything, and that shared priorities lead to healthier ministry relationships. We are looking for volunteers to bring in soup and lunch items.

Annual Reports for 2025 are due! They do not have to be lengthy; bullet points are encouraged. How did your group live out our core values in 2025?

Our **Weaving Prayer** frame hanging from the pulpit was completed last spring. It's a beautiful reminder that like people, one ribbon on its own may be easily broken, but woven together with others it creates a strong fabric of belonging.

Note: The emergency exit from the sanctuary (next to the piano on the front left) is not to be used. For evacuation, please use the main front doors or the staircase on the right.

Please note, our services are livestreamed, and photographs may be taken. You are welcome to take photos and video as well.



If you would like to contribute to our ministry, there are **offering plates** at the back, or you can e-transfer to **stjamesfinancials181@gmail.com**. This QR code will take you directly to our Canada Helps page. **Thank you for your generosity!**

If you would like to be on our weekly email distribution list, please email st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com

Directory

Minister: Rev. Catherine MacDonald,
cell 902-483-1422
email: reverendcatherinemacdonald@gmail.com
Music Director: Dean Bradshaw
beforethursday@hotmail.com
Office (464-8852): Cathy McLeod
st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com
Facebook (Live 10am Sunday) [St-James-United-Church](https://www.facebook.com/St-James-United-Church)
Website: stjamesdartmouth.ca
Food Bank (Feb 3, 17)

Leadership Team

Debra Keays-White – Chair
Murray Wylie – Financial Liaison
Kathy Ibel – Secretary
Joan Clark – Congregational Connector –
Worship and Faith Formation
Ian Travers – Congregational Connector –
Finance and Property
Jackie Clark – Congregational Connector –
Mission and Community Engagement
Jen Adams – Congregational Connector –
Pastoral Care and Inreach
Joyce Wylie – Transition Team Lead

St. James United Church

United in Faith
Strengthened by Friendship
Building a Community
of
Love and Justice

Marking Black History Month



Here from the Beginning:
Salt, Light, and the Stories We Tell.

February 1, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

181 Portland Street
Dartmouth
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902-464-8852

