

▲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)

Everybody knows the world is not as it should be.
Truth is bent, the vulnerable are ignored,
and empty words are spoken as if they were enough.
**We come not to pretend otherwise.
We bring our questions, our grief,
and our weariness with us.**

Like the psalmist, we cry out from the depths.
Our prayer rises from darkness,
and sometimes the silence feels close.

**We are not afraid to speak the truth before God.
God hears even the prayers that sound like lament.**

The steadfast love of the Holy One never ceases.
God's mercies are new every morning.
Great is your faithfulness, O God.

When lies seem loud and the faithful seem few,
when everyone knows how broken things are,
We choose to sing anyway.

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever.
**With cracked voices and honest hearts,
we lift our hallelujah.
Let us worship God together.**

▲We Sing – God of the Sparrow # 229

Opening Prayer (Together)

**Faithful God,
we come as we are,
carrying the weight of a world
that knows too much pain and too many lies.
We bring our questions, our anger,
our silence, and our longing.**

**Meet us in the darkness
as well as the song.
Renew us with mercies
that are new each morning.
Teach us to speak truth,
to trust your steadfast love,
and to offer praise that is real,
even when it is broken.
Receive our hallelujah, just as it is.**

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

Ministry of Music – Everybody Knows – Graham Doyle

Ancient Words – Psalm 88: 1-12, Psalm 89: 1-2
Psalm 12: 1-8, Lamentations 3:22-23

Reflection – Everybody Knows... and Still We Sing Hallelujah

Ministry of Music – Hallelujah – Poppy Mason

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲Hymn – All Creatures of Our God and King # 217

▲A New Creed – Page # 918

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲Hymn – Great Is Thy Faithfulness # 288

▲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**

Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Photo ~ Rev. Catherine MacDonald

THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY
This Week at St James – Jan 25-Jan 31, 2026

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Sanctuary	11:00 am
Monday	Carillon Choir	Hall	7:30 pm
Tuesday	Book Club	Parlour	7:00 pm
Wednesday	Wellness Wednesday	Gym	11:00 am
Wednesday	Craft Group	Parlour	1:30 pm
Thursday	Congregational Care Training	Parlour	10-11:30 am
Thursday	MAID Discussion	Sanctuary	7-9 pm
Saturday	Pancake Breakfast	Gym	9-11 am

There will be a **Congregational Meeting on February 1st** immediately following worship to hear a recommendation from the Leadership Team regarding the sale of the building.

Join us for **Wellness Wednesday** this week, yoga, lunch, friendship. Rev. Catherine will talk about Funeral Service Planning.

Congregational Care Training continues Thursday January 29, 10-11:30. Anyone may attend.

Let's Talk about MAID - St. James United Church, Jan 29, 2026, 7:00-9:00 pm. Facilitated by Max Meier, NS Health. Join us for a thoughtful, compassionate conversation about Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID). This event is open to all.

Scout Pancake Breakfast next Saturday, see insert!

We are forming a **Decor Team** to help make our space warm, welcoming, and reflective of our community. Please sign up on the Circles of Service form at the back of the sanctuary.

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?

Kin Club Brunch today! They are looking forward to seeing you at the best Brunch in Metro. 9:30-12:30, at the East Dartmouth Community Centre, 50 Caledonia Rd.

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:reverendcatherinemacdona@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)

St. James United Church

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



January 25, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

181 Portland Street
Dartmouth
B2Y 1J5
902-464-8852

