

Opening Prayer (Together)

▲ 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)

One by one, the guests arrive;
the guests are coming through.

The open-hearted many,
the broken-hearted few.

Those who dance begin to dance,
those who weep begin,

and “welcome, welcome” cries a voice.
“Let all my guests come in.”

▲ We Sing – Spirit Open My Heart MV # 79

**I don't know why I come here,
knowing as I do,
what you really think of me,
what I really think of you.
For the innermost decision
That we cannot but obey
For what's left of our religion
I lift my voice and pray:
May the lights in The Land of Plenty
Shine on the truth some day.**

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 – Genesis 1: 1-5 & John 1: 1-5

Reflection – Broken Hallelujahs and Holy Light

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

Receiving a Star Word

Prayers of the People

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ Hymn – A Light is Gleaming # 82

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ Song of Dismissal

**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**

Music Takes Us into the World

*Call to Worship – The Guests by Leonard Cohen
Opening Prayer– The Land of Plenty by Leonard Cohen
We Are the Light – Rev. Catherine MacDonald*

THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY
This Week at St James – Jan 4-Jan 10, 2026

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Sanctuary	11:00 am
Tuesday	Food Bank	Hall	8:30-11 am
Wednesday	Craft Group	Parlour	1:30 pm
Thursday	Pastoral Care Training	Parlour	10-11:30 am

Pastoral Care Training

Caring for one another is part of our shared life of faith. Pastoral care is not just the work of the minister. It belongs to all of us, in listening, checking in, and showing up for one another. Rev. Catherine is offering **Pastoral Care Training** for anyone who feels called to walk alongside others during times of illness, grief, transition, or loneliness. You do not need special skills or experience, just a willingness to listen, respect boundaries, and care well. This training is for people who already offer care quietly in everyday ways, and for those who are wondering if this might be one way they are being invited to serve. Together, we will talk about what pastoral care is and what it is not, how to offer support safely and respectfully, and how we care for others without carrying everything alone. No special experience is needed.

Thursday mornings 10-11:30: January 8, 15, 22, 29.

Looking Forward

Wellness Wednesdays, the last Wednesday of the month. Would you like to be healthier in mind, body and spirit? Join us for chair yoga, lunch (free!) interesting speakers, and an opportunity to get to know one another.

Workshop Wednesday, 1:30 in the parlour.

Bring your regular knitting and sewing projects and work with friends every Wednesday. A \$2 donation each week supports a local charity at the end of the year.

Food Bank, every second Tuesday, starting January 6.

Keep music in your life! The **Senior Choir** practices Friday mornings 9:30-10:30, and the **Carillon Handbell Choir** on Mondays, 7:30-8:30.

Do you like to read and discuss books? **Join the Book Club**, last Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm in the parlour. This month we are reading *The Spoon Stealer*, by Lesley Crewe.

Remember to support the monthly **Kin Club Brunch!** They are a big supporter of our Food Bank, and brunch is their main fundraiser.

- 4th Sunday of the month
- 9:30-12:30
- East Dartmouth Community Centre,
- 50 Caledonia Rd, Dartmouth

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

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

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Food Bank (Jan 6, 20)

St. James United Church

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



January 4, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

181 Portland Street
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