

▲ Rise in body or in spirit/Responses in bold

Gathering Music

Welcome & Introductions

Theme Conversation

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Lighting the Lenten Candles

As we begin our Lenten journey,
we gather in a season of slowing down,
of paying attention,
of learning again how to see.

We come with open hearts and willing spirits.

We remember the story of Jesus at the table,
and a woman who was truly seen by him.
While others judged,
Jesus noticed love.

Teach us to see as Jesus sees.

We light this first candle
as a sign of awareness,
a reminder to notice the people before us
and the love already present among us.

**May this light open our eyes
as we begin the journey.**

We Sing – Tree of Life # 121

**Tree of Life and awesome mystery,
in your death we are reborn,
though you die in all of history,
still you rise with every morn,
still you rise with every morn.**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

The good news of the gospel is:
**manna in the desert,
water turned into wine,
love after loss,
forgiveness after pain.**

The good news of the gospel is:
**release for the captive,
hope for the hopeless,
mourning turned to dancing,
and strangers turned to friends.**

So come on in.
There's no time to waste!
so good it catches us by surprise.
This surprising good news is here for you.
Let us worship this good-news God.

▲ We Sing – God Is Here # 389

Words of Assurance

Opening Prayer of Confession (Together)

**Loving God,
somewhere along the way
we picked up the message
that in order to be faithful,
we have to be serious.**
**We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.
We have to be somber in worship
and quiet in our studies.
We have to check our wiggles
and our questions at the door.**

**But then you say the kingdom of God
is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed.**

**You turn water into wine—
surprising and extravagant.**

**And all of a sudden, we wonder:
Can we be like that mustard seed?**

Can we be faithful and unruly?

Can we be playful and curious?

Can we be messy and still be yours?

We know the answer already.

The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course.

Forgive our doubt.

Pull us closer into your embrace.

With faith like a mustard seed, we pray.

Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – John 2: 1-11 & Matthew 13: 31-32

Reflection

Reflective Music

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ Hymn – Teach Me God to Wonder # 299

▲ 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 – This Is God's Wondrous World # 296

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ Song of Dismissal – Tree of Life # 121

**Give us eyes to see you clearly,
make us children of your light;
give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright,
as your gospel shining bright.**

*Candle Lighting – Rev. Catherine MacDonald
Liturgy – A Sanctified Art*

**THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY
This Week at St James – Feb 22 - Feb 28, 2026**

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	Sanctuary	11:00 am
Monday	Carillon Choir	Hall	7:30 pm
Wednesday	Wellness Wednesday	Gym	11:00 pm
Wednesday	Craft Group	Parlour	1:30 pm

The **Rev. Renee Clark** will be leading us for these first three Sundays of Lent, while Rev Catherine is away in Kenya with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Renee has been the Spiritual Care Liaison for Northwood Care since 2012. Born and raised in Cape Breton, a graduate of Cape Breton University (BA '98) and Acadia (MDiv '02), she ministered with small rural congregations in Lunenburg and Digby Counties before coming to HRM in 2009 as Associate Minister at First Baptist Halifax. Welcome back Renee!

Join us for **Wellness Wednesday** this week, 11 pm in the gym - yoga, lunch, friendship.

Lenten Devotional Cards and Devotional Booklet: Let the office know if you would like a copy of these resources, and we will print them. Some copies are available now.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, during Worship. Reports are due now.

In the Community

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.

Grace United Book Sale: Fri Feb 27, 4-7pm, and Sat. Feb 28, 9am-1pm. \$10/bag!

Note: The emergency exit from the sanctuary (next to the piano, front left) is not in use. 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 (Mar 3, 17, 31)

St. James United Church

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



February 22, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

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

