

▲ 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 today on this land called Mi'kma'ki,
aware that our stories are woven into a much older story.
**We gather remembering the faith of Black Loyalists,
Jamaican Maroons, and Black Refugees
who came to Nova Scotia seeking freedom
and built communities in the face of broken promises.**

We gather mindful of places like Birchtown,
Preston, Shelburne, and Africville.
**Communities marked by resilience
creativity, and deep faith,
and by injustice that still calls for truth and repair.**

The God who heard the cries of the enslaved hears still.
**The God who travelled with people through exile
and hardship has not left this place.**

So come, with memory and hope, with honesty and gratitude.
**Let us worship the God who walks with the oppressed,
the God who calls us toward justice,
the God who is still shaping a future of dignity and life.**

▲ We Sing – Deep in Our Hearts MV # 154

Opening Prayer (Together)

**Faithful God,
we come before you
shaped by this land and its history.
We give thanks
for the African heritage of Nova Scotia,
for communities rooted in faith,
for strength carried across generations,
for songs of hope that refused to be silenced.**

**We grieve the harm done
through racism and displacement,
and we confess that your church
has too often been silent
when courage and truth were needed.**

**Forgive us and turn us again toward justice.
Open our hearts in this time of worship,
to honour the past,
to listen in the present,
and to commit ourselves
to the work of healing and dignity for all.**

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 – Jeremiah 29:4–7, 11 & Galatians 3: 26-29

Reflection – Seeking Freedom, Building Home

Reflective Music

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ We Sing – We Are Marchin in the Light of God # 646

▲ A New Creed – Page # 918

Invitation to Generosity & Prayer of Dedication

We Sing – Over My Head MV # 88

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ We Sing – I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me # 575

▲ 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**

Liturgy – Rev. Catherine MacDonald

**THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY
This Week at St James – Feb 8 - Feb 14, 2026**

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Lunch and Learn	Gym	11:00 am
Monday	Carillon Choir	Hall	7:30 pm
Wednesday	Craft Group	Parlour	1:30 pm

What Does Your Minister Do All Day?

Lunch and Learn – following worship.

As we look to the future of St. James, it's important to talk about expectations for ministry. Shared priorities lead to healthier ministry relationships.

Scouting Sunday – Join us on February 15.

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?

Lenten Devotional Cards and Devotional Booklet: Let the office know if you would like a copy of these resources, and we will print them. The first Sunday of Lent is February 22.

Rev Catherine will be away for the first 3 Sundays of Lent, from Feb 20 to March 15. She participated in Hunger on the Hill a over a year ago with the **Canadian Foodgrains Bank**, and was one of 8 people selected to go on a Learning Tour to Kenya with the CFB this year. This organization, which is a 'Christian Response to World Hunger' is a coalition of 15 church and religious organizations, along with government funding, which seeks to end world hunger, not just with emergency aid, but to address the long-term conditions which cause hunger. We wish her well on this exciting and important work, and we will hear from her on this topic when she is back. The Rev. Renee Clark will be leading worship for those three Sundays, and the Rev. Stephen Fram will provide pastoral care support.

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.

In the Community

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!**

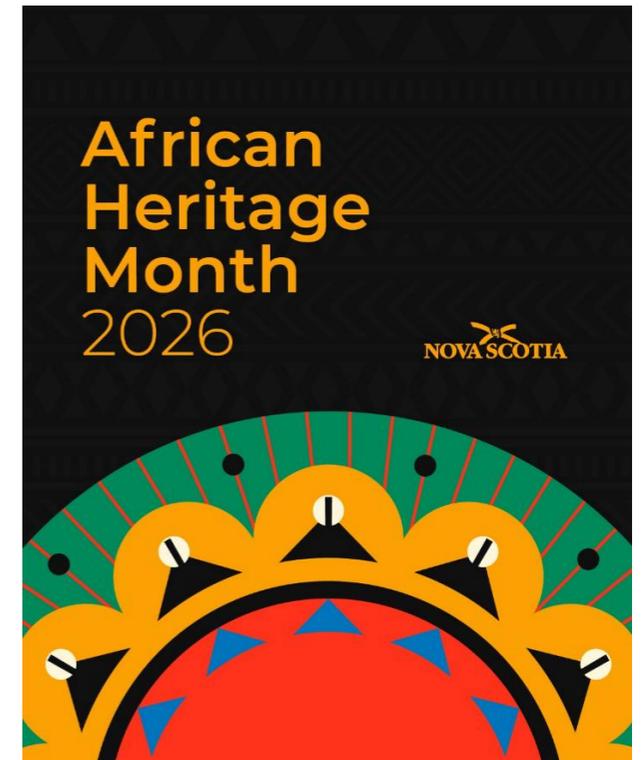
If you would like to be on our weekly email distribution list, please email st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com

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Food Bank (Feb 17; Mar 3, 17, 31)

St. James United Church

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



February 8, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

181 Portland Street
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