

▲ Rise in body or in spirit/Responses in bold

Gathering Music

Welcome

Introductions

Theme Conversation

### CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Lighting the Candles

▲ We Sing – Singing Hallelujah!

Call to Worship (Responsive)

We come with heavy hearts  
and hopeful spirits.

**We come as we are.**

The world teaches us to be serious,  
guarded, and afraid.

**But God invites us into joy.**

Not shallow laughter,  
but deep, defiant joy.

**Joy that refuses to give up.**

Joy that dances  
in the face of despair.

**Joy that trusts love  
will have the last word.**

Come, you holy fools.

**We come to worship  
with open hearts and open laughter.**

▲ We Sing – This Is the Day # 412

Opening Prayer of Confession (Responsive)

God of laughter and life,  
we confess that we have taken ourselves too seriously.  
**We have clung to control.**

We have believed the lie that worry is wisdom.  
We have forgotten how to play.  
**We have scrolled through despair  
and called it awareness.**

We have resisted delight.  
**Forgive us for the times  
we have missed your joy.  
Open us again to wonder,  
to laughter, to life.**

*(Silence)*

The good news is this:  
God does not roll their eyes at us,  
God delights in us.  
**We are forgiven. We are loved.  
We are free to rejoice.  
Amen.**

Ministry of Music – The Lord's Prayer

### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

Ancient Words – Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4 & Psalm 126: 1-3

Dialogue – Breaking News vs. Good News

Reflective Music

Ministry of Music – Amazing Grace

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

▲ Hymn – Sing a Happy Hallelujah # 224

▲ A Holy Humour Creed

Reverse Offering – Laughter, the Best Medicine

Prayers of the People

### THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community

▲ Hymn – Go Make a Difference MV # 209

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ Song of Dismissal – You Shall Go Out with Joy # 884

**You shall go out with joy.  
And be led forth with peace.  
The mountains and the hills.  
Will break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy.  
And all the trees of the field.  
Will clap, will clap their hands.**

**And all the trees of the field.  
Will clap their hands.  
The trees of the field.  
Will clap their hands.  
The trees of the field.  
Will clap their hands.  
While you go out with joy!**

*Liturgy – Rev. Catherine MacDonald*

THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

This Week at St James – Apr 12 - Apr 18, 2026

Day	What	Where	Time
Sunday	Coffee and Conversation	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
Saturday	Yard Sale	Gym	8am-12pm

**Yard Sale April 18!** We will be at the church to accept items Wednesday from 11-3, Thursday from 10-4 and Friday morning until noon. On Saturday the sale starts at 8 am with volunteers to arrive by 7:40. We hope that as many people as possible can help with this great fundraiser. As last fall, we have no truck available for disposal afterwards, so we will be asking for people to help us cart away what we don't sell, and we will also schedule a day after the event for disposal. Let Joan [joan.clark@hotmail.com](mailto:joan.clark@hotmail.com) or Jackie [we-eble@hotmail.com](mailto:we-eble@hotmail.com) know if you are available.

**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!**

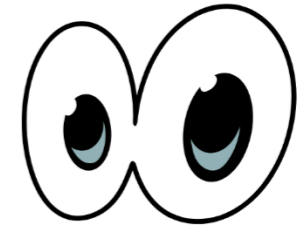
If you would like to be on our weekly email distribution list, please email [st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com](mailto:st.james.dartmouth@gmail.com)

**Directory**

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**Food Bank (April 14, 28)**

St. James United Church

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



**Spotting Joy!**

April 12, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

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