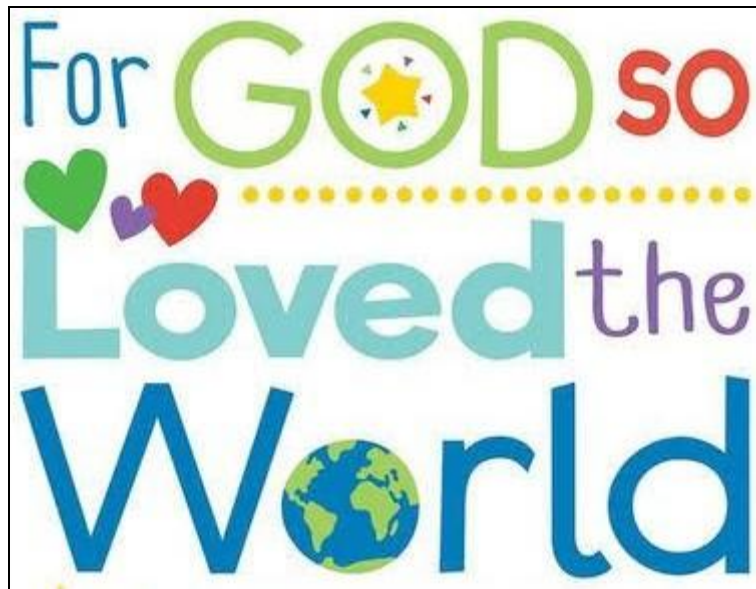


Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Celebration • July 19, 2026 • 10:00 AM



SAINT JAMES
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CREATION JUSTICE • JUST PEACE • OPEN AND AFFIRMING

Founded in 1853

Rev. Paul Werner, Pastor
Ciaran Krueger, Music Director
Christy Schrecengost, Church Administrator
Jonathan Rizzo, Accompanist
Cher Hall, Sunday School Leader
Karen Reinagel, Director of Religious Education Emerita

Bluesky
Facebook
Instagram
Threads

@hamburgucc



hamburgucc.org

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Celebration • July 19, 2026 • 10:00 AM

Liturgist: Marie Nolan



“There is salvation, I believe, in the fully human Jesus who reveals what human life can be, an existence free of tribal boundaries, free of prejudice, free of sexism, and free of fear. Such a life will inevitably empower others to step into that promise; and when they do, they will, I believe, experience the reality of God.”

John Shelby Spong, in *Jesus for the Non-Religious*

“God loves the world. And to show God unconditional, universal love, God sent Jesus, not to condemn, but to save. Jesus didn’t come to violently punish the world, but to show God’s nonviolent love. God’s nonviolent love is ultimately revealed when Jesus was high and lifted up on the cross, like Moses’ bronze serpent. That’s where we ultimately see that God doesn’t respond to human violence with more violence; rather, God responds with divine love and forgiveness. ‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.’ ”

Adam Ericksen, in *How Progressive Christians Can Reclaim John 3:16*



Welcome, Rev. Gary! Rev. Gary Morrison is our guest preacher today. He is a 1973 graduate of Colgate Rochester Divinity School, and he served First Congregational Church, UCC, in Hatfield, Massachusetts. He completed his Clinical Pastoral Education requirement at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York. Rev. Gary is originally from Kenmore and attended Kenmore West High School, and he completed his ministerial internships in Pittsford, so he is very familiar with the religious environment of Western New York. His parents were founding

members of the Church of the Nativity, UCC, in Tonawanda. Rev. Gary is an avid tennis player and was a New York State doubles champion in 1964.

Congregation: Bold print
*Please rise in body or in spirit.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Gary Morrison

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Rev. Gary

We acknowledge that the land upon which St. James UCC stands was originally the ancestral and unceded territory of the Haudenosaunee and Erie people. We celebrate and honor the contributions that Native Americans have made in the past and continue to make today in the Western New York area and the Americas. We embrace the Haudenosaunee philosophy that the decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future. Additionally, we commit to supporting initiatives that empower the local, national, and international Indigenous communities and to listening, learning, and taking actions to address injustices past and present that have impacted these communities and all God's creation.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Welcome to St. James, an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, where we strive to be more fully the body of Christ. We are committed to welcoming and celebrating all people and the uniqueness we each bring. As people of faith, we boldly proclaim: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

CONTEMPORARY READING / CONTINUING TESTAMENT

Rev. Gary

INTROIT

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Please rise in body or in spirit to greet your neighbor with Christ's peace.

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Please return to your seat as we begin to sing the opening hymn.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Dear God, Embracing Humankind"

NCH 502

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Marie Nolan

One: God's love is for all of creation.

Many: **The vastness of God is for human, animal, soil, and sun — all together as God's beloved.**

One: God has not come into the world in Jesus to condemn us.

Many: **Jesus has come to live God's love in the flesh.**

One: While the world is dim with injustice and the feeling of loneliness,

Many: **It is in Jesus that the light of love illuminates our path of friendship.**

One: Come, let us join our lives with the Friend, whose love is for the whole world.

Many: **Let us worship our God!**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Marie

God our Friend, the vastness of your love flows through all of creation, and this is cause for rejoicing. For all the harshness and condemnation we see in the world, you have come to us out of love and compassion, and to save us from ourselves. We acknowledge our belief that you have come to redeem, to heal, to restore, and to forgive — not just some of the world, but all of the world. May our worship embody the love and light you bring in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***RESPONSE**

"God Loved the World" (Verse 1)

NCH 208

***God loved the world, and loving gave
a wondrous gift the lost to save,
That all who would in Christ believe
should everlasting life receive.***

ONE LICENSE A-723905

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Gary

SCRIPTURE

Marie

John 3:16-17 (NRSV Updated Edition)

The writer or writers of the Gospel of John would have us believe that these words were spoken by Jesus himself during his secret conversation with a leading Pharisee, Nicodemus. It is difficult to change this traditional view of some of the best known and most loved texts in all the Bible. More than likely, however, we have John's own analysis of what the coming of the Son of God really means.

(continued on the next page)→

Jesus speaking: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

CHORAL ANTHEM

MESSAGE

“The Miracle of Remembrance”

Rev. Gary

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

Rev. Gary

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER / PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our ___*, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom**, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Use whatever language is closest to your own heart (Our Father, Our Creator, Our Father and Mother, etc.)*

***Or “kin-dom.”*

RESPONDING WITH OUR GENEROSITY

Rev. Gary

INVITATION

OFFERTORY / GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

- *Please place your gift in the offering plate. Many of our members and friends give online. To do so, you are invited to use the information located on the back cover of this bulletin.*
- *Our gifts help sustain this community of faith by maintaining our facilities, supporting our staff, and providing the materials that make our ministry available to all.*

***DOXOLOGY**

NCH 780

(Sing the version of the Doxology that is closest to your own heart.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN**

“I Come to the Garden Alone”

NCH 237

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Gary

***SINGING FOR A JUST PEACE**

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, with justice and dignity.*

*With God as Creator, family all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my joyous vow:*

*To love with kindness and work for justice, that all may be set free.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!*

ONE LICENSE A-723905

***POSTLUDE**

You may make your way to the Horton Lounge (Hospitality Room) for refreshments and fellowship, or you may remain in the sanctuary for contemplation and reflection.

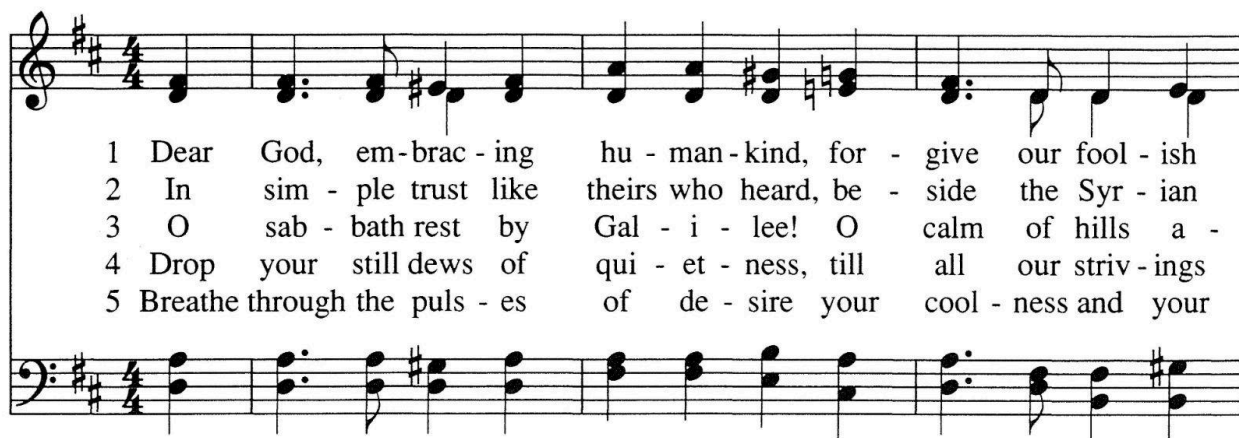


Dear God, Embracing Humankind

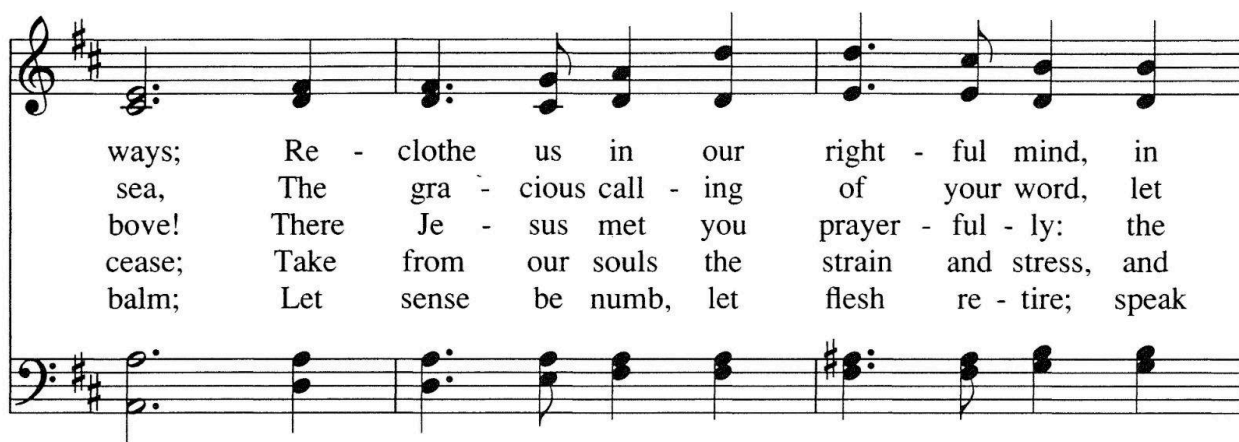
502

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.

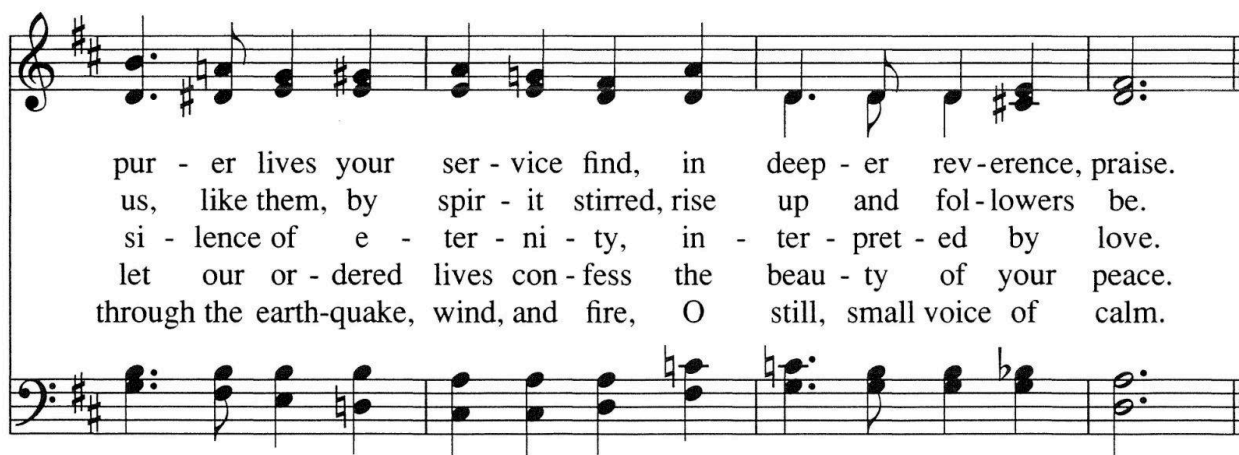
Mark 1:16-20; Matt. 14:22-23; 1 Kings 19:11-12



1 Dear God, em-brac - ing hu - man - kind, for - give our fool - ish
2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a -
4 Drop your still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
5 Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire your cool - ness and your



ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
sea, The gra - cious call - ing of your word, let
bove! There Je - sus met you prayer - ful - ly: the
cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and
balm; Let sense be numb, let flesh re - tire; speak



pur - er lives your ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
us, like them, by spir - it stirred, rise up and fol - lowers be.
si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love.
let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of your peace.
through the earth-quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

ONE LICENSE A-723905

God is love

John 3:16-17

Heiliges Lippen und Herzens Opfer, Stettin, 1778

Transl. August Crull, 1845; alt.

1 God loved the world, and lov - ing gave
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith,
 3 If you are sick, if death is near,
 4 Be of good cheer, for God in Christ

a won - drous gift, the lost to save,
 who was made flesh and suf - fered death;
 this truth your trou - bled heart can cheer;
 for - gives the flock, by sin en - ticed,

That all who would in Christ be - lieve
 All who con - fide in Christ a - lone
 Christ Je - sus saves us all from death;
 And jus - ti - fied by Je - sus' blood,

should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 your bap - tism grants the high - est good.

I Come to the Garden Alone

(In the Garden)

John 20:14-18

C. Austin Miles, 1912

1 I come to the gar-den a-lone, while the dew is still on the
 2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their
 3 I'd stay in the gar-den with him, though the night a-round me be

ros-es; And the voice I hear, fall-ing on my ear, the
 sing-ing; And the mel-o-dy that he gave to me with-
 fall-ing; But he bids me go; through the voice of woe his

Refrain
 Son of God dis-clos-es.
 in my heart is ring-ing. And he walks with me, and he
 voice to me is call-ing.

talks with me, and he tells me I am his own, And the

joy we share as we tar-ry there, none oth-er has ev-er known.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun 7/19	10:00 AM	Sunday Celebration
Tue 7/21	12:00 PM	<i>Connector</i> weekly e-news articles are due (every Tuesday)
Tue 7/21	6:30 PM	Small Group Series of "The Chosen" (Horton Lounge)
Thu 7/23	8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous (Horton Lounge)
Sun 7/26	10:00 AM	Sunday Celebration

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Fri 7/10 - Fri 7/24		Rev. Paul on Vacation
Sat 8/1	1:00 PM	Singing Resistance
Sun 8/2	10:00 AM	Sunday Celebration - Communion Sunday
Sun 8/9	11:30 AM	Parking Lot Picnic → To RSVP: https://tinyurl.com/ParkingLotPicnic2026
Sun 8/12	3:00 PM	Worship Team
Sun 8/23	12:00 PM	Hamburg Clergy Alliance After-Church Cookout (at Hamburg United Methodist Church)
Wed 9/16	1:00 PM	Mission and Social Action Team
Sun 9/20	10:00 AM	Sunday Celebration - Just Peace Sunday

REV. PAUL'S TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Mon 7/20	Away
Tue 7/21	Away
Wed 7/22	Away
Thu 7/23	Away
Fri 7/24	Away
Sat 7/25	Study and writing day

BE A SUNDAY VOLUNTEER!

Please use the links below to sign up for Sunday volunteer opportunities. Thank you!

Liturgists:	https://tinyurl.com/stjamesuccliturgists
Greeters:	https://tinyurl.com/stjamesuccgreeters
Altar flowers:	https://tinyurl.com/stjamesuccflowers
After-church coffee and fellowship:	https://tinyurl.com/stjamesuccfellowship

Have you remembered St. James UCC in your will?

FOOD AND TOILETRY DONATIONS

We continue to collect toiletries and food gifts (as well as pet food and treats) for the Saints Peter and Paul food pantry and outreach center. Your generous contributions from the shopping list below are most welcome and appreciated.

Collection bins for donations are located by the elevator and outside the Horton Lounge. Thank you to everyone who blesses our community with their donations.

FOOD PANTRY	
SHOPPING LIST	
July/August 2026	
PANTRY STAPLES	
Mac & Cheese	☐
Crackers	☐
Kid Snacks (it's summer break!)	☐
Canned Meat Meals (stew, chili, hash, etc.)	☐
Peanut Butter & Jelly	☐
Tomato Products - stewed, crushed, diced, paste, etc.	☐
Canned Fruit (inc. applesauce)	☐
Juice - bottles or juice boxes	☐
Pasta Sides and Rice Sides	☐
HOUSEHOLD/TOILETRIES	
Dish Liquid	☐
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes	☐
Hand Soap	☐
Facial Tissues	☐
Deodorant	☐
Cat and Dog Food	☐

You can also support the pantry by making donations from their Amazon Wish List:
<https://tinyurl.com/SSPPwishlist>

**SMALL GROUP SERIES OF SEASON 3 OF “THE CHOSEN”
TUESDAY, JULY 21 • 6:30 PM**

Episode 8: “Sustenance”

Season 3 concludes with awe-inspiring miracles that reveal the fullness of Jesus’ power. As he provides in abundance and calls his followers to deeper trust, we’re reminded that he meets us in both our needs and our fears.

Come as you are — ready to explore, question, and grow in community.
All are welcome! Bring a friend!

SMALL GROUP SERIES

**The
CHOSEN**

**Come and be encouraged, challenged, and inspired as
we examine Season 3 together!**

**Every episode invites us deeper into the challenges, miracles,
and personal journeys of those called to follow Jesus.**

**TUESDAYS AT 6:00 PM
St. James UCC • Horton Lounge**

Facilitated by Megan O’Neill



**All are welcome!
Bring a friend!**





Costs have been going up lately for everyone, and our church is included in this inflationary experience.

You will find specially marked envelopes that say "Lawn Legends" in the sanctuary, on the table by the Church Office, and occasionally in our worship bulletins. We are asking you to contribute an additional amount, if possible, to help us with our lawncare expenses and help maintain the beautiful presence of our historic campus in the Village of Hamburg.

Thank you in advance for your loving and generous contributions!

ANOTHER WAY TO CARE FOR CREATION



Do you have cans and bottles to redeem?

Bring your cans and bottles to Can Bottle Return (4255 Clark Street in Hamburg) and mention St. James United Church of Christ. Your redemption amount will be donated to the church.

This is a great way to prevent litter, encourage recycling, and care for creation!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Occasionally we need tech help on
Sundays or for special services.
It's actually NOT very technical!

Join Christy after worship for a
quick introduction to our Sunday
tech support. See what's involved
and if it's something you might be
interested in helping with.

No commitment. No obligation.
Just information.



HAMBURG CLERGY ALLIANCE
of Western New York

AFTER-CHURCH COOKOUT!

**We'll provide the hamburgers,
hotdogs, and place settings.**

Please bring a potluck dish and lawn chairs.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 • 12:00 PM
Hamburg United Methodist Church, 116 Union St.



@hamburgclergywny

For more info:
pastordavid@hamburgumc.org
revpaul@hamburgucc.org



Parking Lot Picnic

August 9

11:30 AM

Meat & beverages provided.
Please bring a side dish or
dessert to share as well as
lawn chairs for your family.

RSVP and let us know what you'll be bringing at:
tinyurl.com/ParkingLotPicnic2026

What is the United Church of Christ?

The United Church of Christ traces its roots to the Protestant Reformation, the Pilgrims of the *Mayflower*, and traditions indigenous to the United States. There are five historic “streams” that formed the UCC: Congregational, Christian, Afro-Christian, Evangelical, and Reformed.

- In 1931, the Christian Church, along with the Afro-Christian Convention, joined with the Congregational Churches to form the Congregational Christian Churches. Then, in 1934, the Reformed Church in the United States and the Evangelical Synod of North America united to become the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Both of these denominations merged to form the United Church of Christ in 1957. We are a united and uniting church.
- The UCC weaves God’s message of hope and extravagant welcome with social action for justice and peace, and our response to the demands of our faith is woven into the history of our country.
- We were the first historically white denomination to ordain an African American (1785) and the first in the modern era to ordain a woman (1853). We were the first mainline denomination to ordain an openly gay man (1972) and affirm marriage equality (2005). We were in the forefront of the anti-slavery movement, the Social Gospel movement, and the Civil Rights Movement, taking seriously Jesus’ commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Learn more about the UCC’s “firsts”: <https://www.hamburgucc.org/about-the-ucc>

Welcome to St. James United Church of Christ

- We believe that faith is a matter of heart and mind.
- We believe that taking the Bible seriously does not mean taking it literally.
- We believe that God embraces all people equally.
- We believe that we are called to be nothing less than global citizens.
- We believe that the social expression of love is justice.
- We believe that every generation is called to discover new faith traditions.
- We believe that God continues to speak through the actions and words of people today, just as in times of old.



We are a **Creation Justice** church. In the United Church of Christ, Creation Justice churches are “green” churches committed to caring for creation and recognizing how past and current abuse of this gift has caused suffering and inequity. We commit ourselves to confront current and future detriment to our climate and creation in all dimensions of our congregation’s life and beyond the walls of the church.

We are a **Just Peace** church. In the United Church of Christ, Just Peace churches promote peace with justice (a just peace) as an expression of God’s love. We support peaceful opposition to intolerance, injustice, discrimination, and war, and we seek the ways of justice and peace in order to make a difference in our lives and the lives of all who experience injustice and violence.

We are an **Open and Affirming** church. In the United Church of Christ, Open and Affirming churches covenant to welcome and celebrate people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Likewise, we welcome and celebrate people of every faith experience, race, ethnicity, culture, ability, age, background, viewpoint, and life experience. If you struggle with addiction, are recovering from trauma, or have ever felt the pain of exclusion, you are embraced here.

To receive our **weekly e-news**, *The St. James Connector*, scan the QR code or go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/stjamesuccnews>



SCAN ME

For **online giving**, scan the QR code or go to:
<https://www.hamburgucc.org/giving>



SCAN ME

St. James United Church of Christ

76 Main Street • Hamburg, NY 14075 • 716-649-6171

Church Office: churchoffice@hamburgucc.org • Pastor: revpaul@hamburgucc.org



We recycle church bulletins! After you are finished using your bulletin, please share it with a friend or neighbor or place it in the recycling bins in the narthex area or in front of the church.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER WITH 100% POST-CONSUMER CONTENT