

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Celebration • July 12, 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

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Liturgist: Robin Lindstrom



“What can we do to alleviate some of those fears that may well keep our neighbors and friends from ‘coming to see Jesus’ for themselves?”

Janet H. Hunt

“Jesus is the place where God dwells.”

Paul S. Berge

“Come and see. Such simple, open, and inviting words. Words, I think, that sum up not only the heart of the Gospel of John but the whole Christian life.”

David Lose



Welcome, Pastor Tina! Pastor Tina Bacon is our guest preacher today. She is a graduate of the New York School of Ministry, and she currently works as a chaplain for Catholic Health at Mercy Nursing at OLV and in the Telechaplancy Department. She was Designated Pastor of Faith UCC in Williamsville for six years, and she also served at Kenilworth UCC. Pastor Tina is no stranger to St. James UCC, as she attended as a teenager and young adult and was a student pastor here under the direction of Rev. Bob Matlack. She is happy to be back in the pulpit here today!

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

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Tina Bacon

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Pastor Tina

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

Pastor Tina

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** "Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good"

NCH 6

One: We praise you, O God, for you are our God, and we are your people.
Many: **Wonderful are your works, O God. We know them very well!**
One: Search us and know us, Creator. Remove us from shadows into your presence.
Many: **Wonderful are your works, O God. We know them very well!**
One: Place your hand upon us, Gracious One, as we worship you and minister in your name.
Many: **Wonderful are your works, O God. We know them very well!**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Robin

Sovereign One, we acknowledge your presence among us. Stir up the gifts you have planted among us. Hold us in your care and present a mirror before us so that we may know ourselves as you have known us. Strengthen us in your mercy and let your grace propel us to renewal and righteousness. Amen.

***RESPONSE**

“God Our Author and Creator” (Verse 1)

NCH 530

***God our Author and Creator, in whose life we find our own,
make our daily witness greater, by our lives make your love known.
Help us show how love embraces those whom fear and greed down-trod;
in all yearning hearts and faces let us see a child of God.***

ONE LICENSE A-723905

CHILDREN’S TIME

Pastor Tina

SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (NRSV Updated Edition)

Robin

This story of Samuel’s call to be God’s prophet in Israel has the flavor of an ancient folktale. Before being written down, it was told and retold by one generation to another because Samuel was such a towering figure in Israel’s religious and political history. The story reveals yet another instance when God was believed to have intervened to change in the direction of the nation’s history. This was interpreted as God keeping the covenant made long before with Abraham and with Moses.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to God under Eli. The word of God was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the

(continued on the next page)→

temple of God, where the ark of God was. Then God called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. God called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know God, and the word of God had not yet been revealed to him. God called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that God was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if God calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, God, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now God came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

John 1:43-51 (NRSV Updated Edition)

Pastor Tina

The Gospel of John tells of many incidents in Jesus' ministry not found in the other gospels. Some actually conflict with what the other gospels say. The way Jesus gathered his disciples is one such instance. The reason for this discrepancy is made clear in this passage. Those who followed Jesus did so solely because they were convinced that he was God's Messiah. This exchange between Jesus and Nathanael established this important motif in the Gospel of John. Starkly evident throughout Jesus' ministry were those who believed in him and those who didn't.

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the Ruler of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Promised One."

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Here I Am, Lord"

Lloyd Larson

MESSAGE

"Come and See"

Pastor Tina

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

Pastor Tina

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

Pastor Tina

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

"God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"

NCH 531

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Tina



***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!***

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***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.

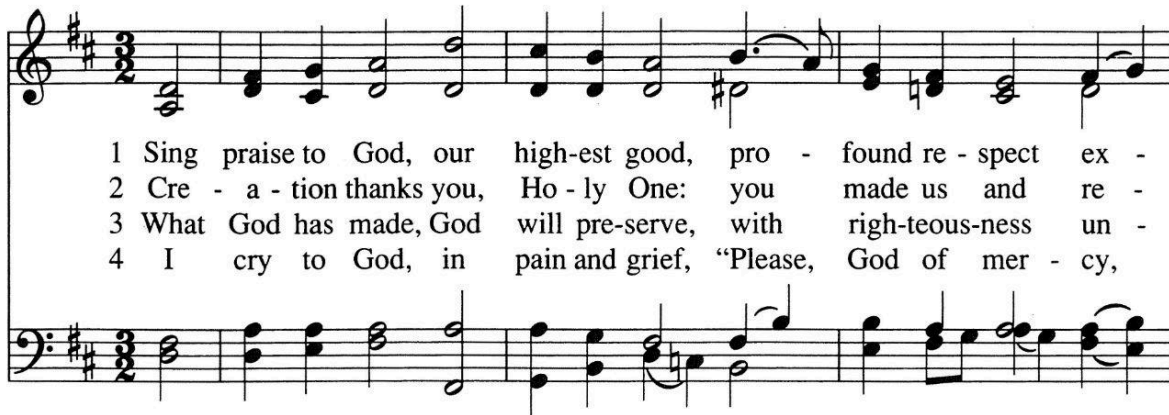


Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good

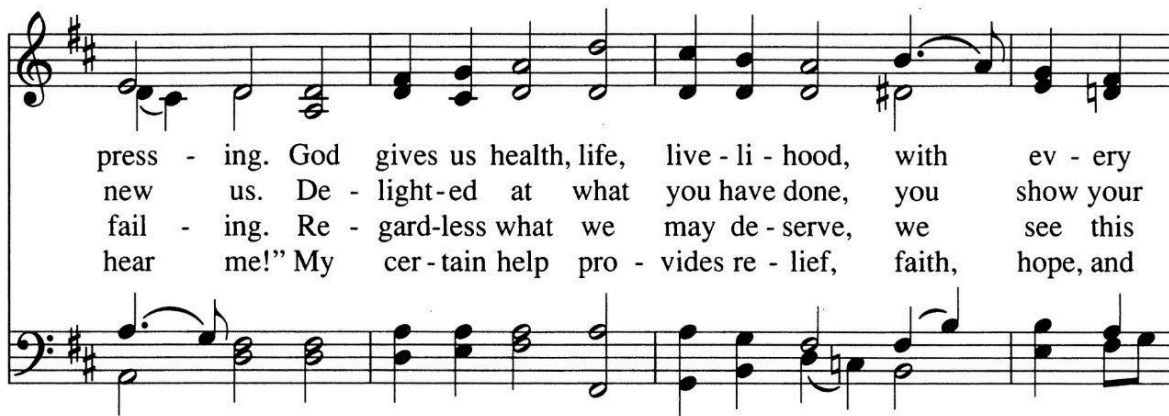
Ps. 105; 1 Chron. 16:9; 1 Pet. 1:3-7

Johann J. Schütz, 1675

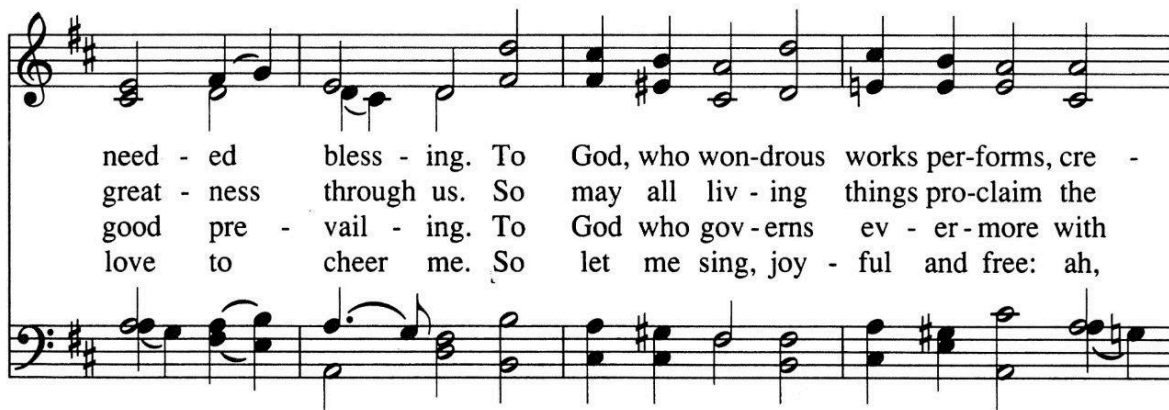
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993



1 Sing praise to God, our high-est good, pro - found re - spect ex -
 2 Cre - a - tion thanks you, Ho - ly One: you made us and re -
 3 What God has made, God will pre-serve, with righ-teous-ness un -
 4 I cry to God, in pain and grief, "Please, God of mer - cy,



press - ing. God gives us health, life, live - li - hood, with ev - ery
 new us. De - light-ed at what you have done, you show your
 fail - ing. Re - gard-less what we may de - serve, we see this
 hear me!" My cer - tain help pro - vides re - lief, faith, hope, and



need - ed bless - ing. To God, who won-drous works per-forms, cre -
 great - ness through us. So may all liv - ing things pro-claim the
 good pre - vail - ing. To God who gov - erns ev - er-more with
 love to cheer me. So let me sing, joy - ful and free: ah,



a - ting life and calm-ing storms, to God give praise and glo - ry!
 won-ders of their Mak-er's name: to God give praise and glo - ry!
 jus - tice serv - ing rich and poor, to God give praise and glo - ry!
 thank-ful Chris-tians, sing with me: to God give praise and glo - ry!

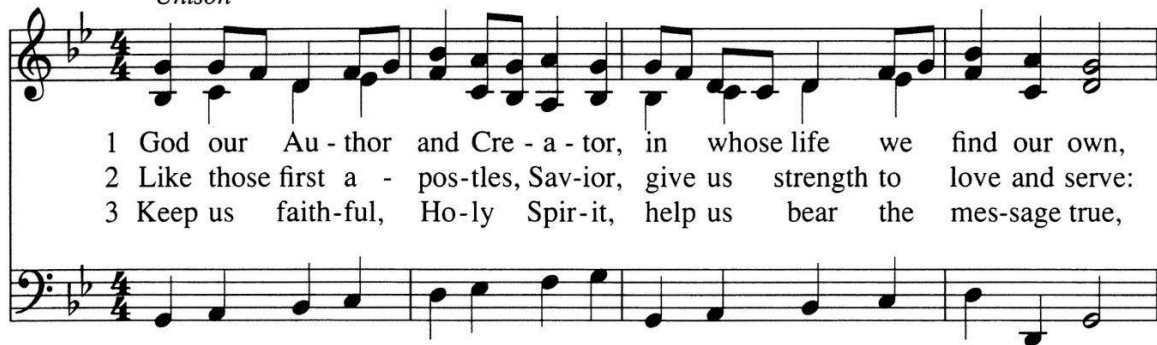
God Our Author and Creator

530

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1985

Gen. 1:1-2:3; Acts 17:22-31; Rom. 12:2; John 3:16-17

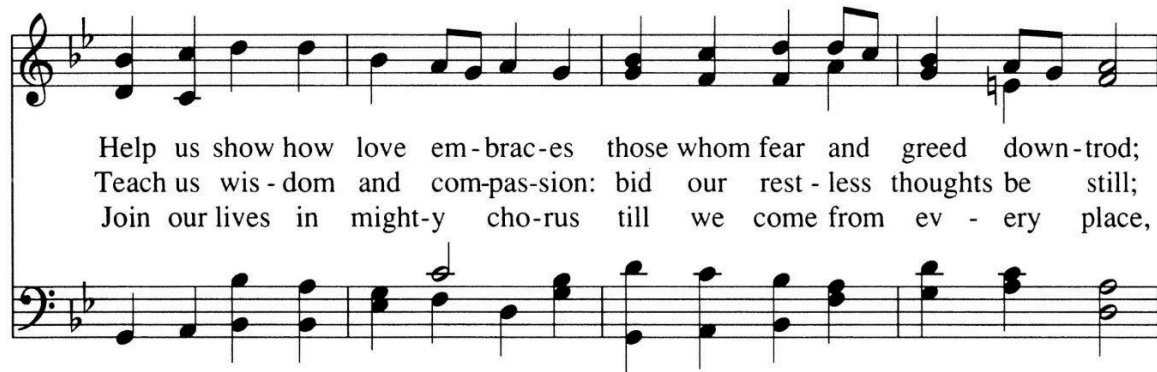
Unison



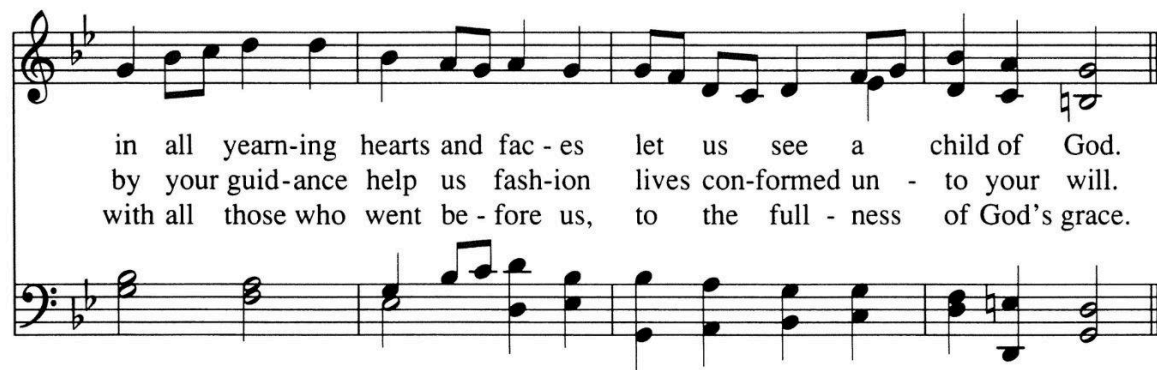
1 God our Au - thor and Cre - a - tor, in whose life we find our own,
2 Like those first a - pos-tles, Sav-ior, give us strength to love and serve:
3 Keep us faith-ful, Ho-ly Spir-it, help us bear the mes-sage true,



make our dai - ly wit - ness great-er, by our lives make your love known.
when our faint-ing spir - its wa-ver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.
that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."



Help us show how love em-brac-es those whom fear and greed down-trod;
Teach us wis - dom and com-pas-sion: bid our rest - less thoughts be still;
Join our lives in might-y cho-rus till we come from ev - ery place,



in all yearn-ing hearts and fac - es let us see a child of God.
by your guid-ance help us fash-ion lives con-formed un - to your will.
with all those who went be - fore us, to the full - ness of God's grace.

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.

1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
 3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
 4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
 ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
 as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
 kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

ONE LICENSE A-723905



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	7/12	10:00 AM	Sunday Celebration
Tue	7/14	12:00 PM	Connector weekly e-news articles are due (every Tuesday)
Tue	7/14	6:30 PM	Small Group Series of "The Chosen" (Horton Lounge)
Tue	7/14	6:30 PM	Flying Knights of Hamburg (Assembly Hall)
Thu	7/16	8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous (Horton Lounge)
Sun	7/19	10:00 AM	Sunday Celebration

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Fri 7/10 - Fri 7/24		Rev. Paul on Vacation
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	7/13	Away
Tue	7/14	Away
Wed	7/15	Away
Thu	7/16	Away
Fri	7/17	Away
Sat	7/18	Away

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 14 • 6:30 PM**

Episode 7: “Ears to Hear”

The disciples return from their mission with stories to tell, but not everything is easy. Relationships are strained, and lessons in humility take center stage.

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



**SAINT JAMES
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**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!

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.

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