



ST. JAMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**St. James
Mission
Statement:**

To God's glory and through the leading of the Holy Spirit we invite all to:

COME TO JESUS,

finding a haven to cultivate a personal dynamic relationship with him;

LEARN FROM JESUS,

through the study of the Bible, encouragement, worship and prayer;

GO WITH JESUS,

empowered together to share his liberating word.

 **FROM PASTOR MATT** 

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.
Luke 17:5-6, NIV

DEAR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS,

October is typically a time we begin to celebrate the harvest: We see the fields of corn cut and processed and roadside stands are full of squash and pumpkins that have been growing all summer. There's a chill in the air and the leaves are coming down from the trees in a shower of autumn colors. It's a wonderful time of year!

But it's probably safe to say it's not a time that you think much

about cultivating things—your garden is probably going into hibernation.

There is one thing that we can always cultivate throughout the entire year—our faith! In this little expression from Jesus found in Luke 17:5-6, Jesus says that faith only needs to start as a tiny seed. If we cultivate it and allow it to grow and flourish it will produce an abundant harvest of

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Sunday Morning

9:00 am - Formed for Faith
9:30 am - Worship Service & Sunday School
10:30 am - Choir rehearsal

St. James United Methodist Church

4661 Porter Road
Niagara Falls, NY 14305-3309
(716) 297-6421
Fax (716) 298-1142
Email: office@stjamesniagara.org
Website: stjamesniagara.org
Facebook: facebook.com/stjamesniagara

Church Office

Mon. - Fri.
9 am - 3 pm
Pastor Matt Office
Hours:
Mon./Tues.
mornings

(Continued from page 1)

the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

October is a perfect month to cultivate your faith—there are lots of things to get involved in in the church—from new studies and services, to mission projects, to fun fellowship activities for your entire family. I hope you'll look through the newsletter this month and find ways you can cultivate your faith and life in Christ.

With grace and peace,
Pastor Matt Kofahl



Join us for
Sunday School
9:30 - 10:30 am
St. James United
Methodist Church

All children are welcome
Nursery care starting at 9:15 am
Join us for family play time in the gym
starting at 9:00 am and immediately
following the service

**Calling All
Young
St. James
Families!**

We're starting a monthly get-together just for you and your family!

Our first one will take place on **Friday, October 4th at 5:30 pm**, and will be a bonfire at the church with hot dogs and s'mores. We'll have a short devotional, some fun time, and we'll talk about what you would like to see happen at future get-togethers.

Please join us, bring along some ideas, and let us know how we can best make this sort of thing work for your busy family.

If you are interested in attending, please let Darren Marshall know (call or text 990-4872) so he can have enough hot dogs.

We welcome Nicole Ennett to the St. James staff as our new Sunday School Coordinator!

United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women's meeting for October 24th with a program yet to be determined will begin at 1:00 pm. The hostess will be Debbie McCombs.

The November 21st meeting for UMW will be one week early due to Thanksgiving. The program will be: "World Thank Offering." The hostess will be Shirley Brierley.

The **Niagara Frontier District United Methodist Women Annual Meeting** will be held Saturday, October 5th at Eden United Methodist Church. Carmen Vianese, Upper New York UMW President, will speak on "The Next 150 Years." The cost is \$10.00 by September 30th (includes coffee hour and lunch). Registrations received after September 30th are \$15.00.

Niagara Frontier District UMW will hold a NETWORK OF LEADERS event on Saturday November 9th, 9:30-noon, at New Hope United Methodist Church in West Seneca. This meeting will give current and new officers the opportunity to share ideas and carry on the legacy of our founders and continue our mission of caring for women, children, and youth There is no charge



for this event but you need to RSVP by November 2nd. For more information contact Joyce Perry.

The **Beechwood Service Guild** is asking for your support in their yearly membership drive. A donation of \$3.00 can help the organization provide entertainment for the residents as well as yourself. Monies also go towards activities and the Living Care Fund and subscriptions to the *Upper Room*. The Service Guild meets the first Wednesday of the month from October to June (with the exception of January) at 10:30. In December and June we meet at 2:00-3:30 for our teas.

The **Mitten Tree** that includes hats, scarves, and warm socks for children in need will be set up after Thanksgiving. They will be distributed to local schools around December 16th in time for winter recess.

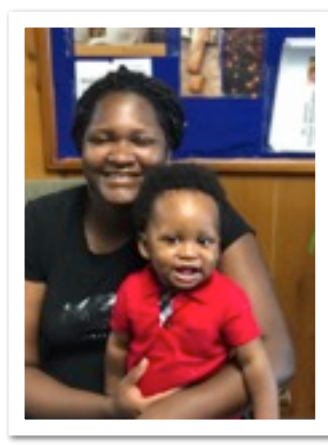
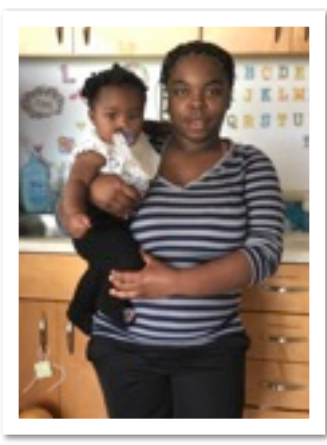
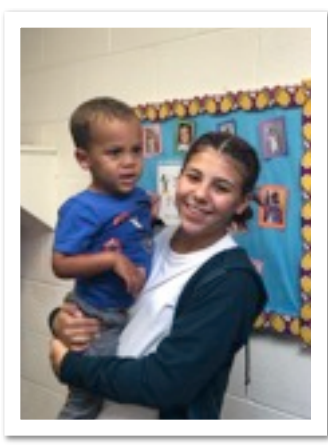
Thanks to all who have so generously purchased our variety of candy bars. The proceeds are used to support our mission projects.



THANK YOU to everyone who helped at and supported our Chiavetta's chicken BBQs this year! We will be back again in 2020!

UPDATE: Last month we announced a chicken and biscuit dinner planned for October. Unfortunately, that has been cancelled.

Little Wonders Early Childhood Development Center



Our Little Wonders ministry program is bustling this year with the sights and sounds of children everywhere. We are all getting settled nicely. To date, our total enrollment stands at approximately 75 families. Encompassed within that number, 55-60 children are with us daily. These many children require in depth classroom and meal planning, structure, and an overabundance of activities all aimed at providing the highest quality of care.

We have also welcomed three new, young mothers to our program. They are currently enrolled at Niagara Falls High School; all are seniors. We provide a tremendous amount of support to our young moms, who are often struggling to find the balance between school and being a mother. In addition to daily care for their children, we offer both parenting and school support, transportation, and any additional clothing and food needs. We additionally provide a great deal of emotional support.

For many of our young mothers, just having someone to talk to makes all the difference in the world, especially when facing difficulties and finding the balance. As their year in school

progresses, they tend to form bonds with one another and become friends. In many ways, our center is a safe, non-judgmental place for them to talk with one another and offer support when needed.

In terms of transportation for them, it gets quite costly. We depend upon the generosity of monetary donations to help. On an average school year, the cost rises well above \$2,000.00. We currently only budget \$1,500.00. If you are interested in donating toward transportation for our young moms, please call the church office at 716-297-6421. Every little bit helps.

Finally, as our school year settles, we could always use volunteers in the program. If you are interested, there are many ways to provide support. Whether it is rocking a baby or lending a hand with homework in our school age room, there is always a need. Once again, please just call the church.

Miss Rose

Little Wonders website:
stjamesniagara.org/little-wonders

Gardens of Compassion

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven...a time to plant and a time to uproot (harvest)"

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2b (NIV)



And so we have continued to harvest strawberries, rhubarb, kale, green and yellow beans, tomatoes, carrots, beets, snap peas, herbs, scallions, peppers... Other vegetables have finished their season. This year we grew some delicious cantaloupes!! Produce has been shared widely with the gardeners, Community Missions soup kitchen, and community persons in need.

Toward the end of October, all who worked the gardens will share brunch together, ever grateful for our fellowship, learning, and spiritual growth.

Our sunflowers shine down on us as we look to spring and new beginnings!!

God bless you, and have "a time to love." (Ecclesiastes 3:8)

Jan Babcock



Ministry Building Workshop
Saturday, October 12
11am - 2pm

Where are we headed as a church?
 How can we better hear God's call for St. James?
 What are the needs within our congregation and our community?
 How can our families get to know each other?
 How can we involve more people in our ministries?

Come and share your ideas, your questions, your needs, and your prayers.



St. James folks are invited!



Hope United Methodist Church

2914 Upper Mt. Rd, Sanborn

Come join us for

fellowship activities:

Starting Sunday September 8th Sunday night prayer and Bible study. A time for prayer, worship and study. Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. through December 15th. No study on October 13th or November 11th.

In Christianity, Lectio Divina is a traditional Benedictine practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's Word. It does not treat Scripture as texts to be studied, but as the Living Word.

Traditionally, Lectio Divina has four separate steps: read; meditate; pray; contemplate. First a passage of scripture is read, then its meaning is reflected upon. This is followed by prayer and contemplation on the Word of God.

The four stages of Lectio Divina are:

Reading

Meditation

Prayer

Contemplation



Genesis 1:1-19 (See text at right)

Note the order of creation. Each day follows carefully upon what happened the day before, according to the divine plan that builds toward the unity and harmony of everything that exists. Creation begins significantly with God's word, and the first thing created is light. By these we can see and know all of creation.

Reflect: Do I have a real awe and wonder at God's goodness and beauty? Do I give thanks always for the God who always guides everything in the world?

Pray: I ask to find God everywhere in the world around me and pray for deeper reverence for all created things.

Act: I will treat each person I meet and each thing I touch as though it were the direct image of the goodness and love of God.

In the beginning when God created[a] the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

OCTOBER 2019


St. James United Methodist Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 8:00 am Dirt Devils	2	3 10:00 am Sew & Sows	4 5:30 pm Young Families Bonfire	5
6 9:00 am Formed for Faith 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Choir rehearsal 5:00 pm Prayer meeting-Hope UMC	7 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers Rehearsal	8 8:00 am Dirt Devils	9 7:00 pm Focus	10 10:00 am Sew & Sows	11	12 11:00 am Ministry Building Workshop
13 9:00 am Formed for Faith 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Choir rehearsal	14 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers Rehearsal	15 8:00 am Dirt Devils	16	17 10:00 am Sew & Sows	18	19
20 9:00 am Formed for Faith 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Choir rehearsal 5:00 pm Prayer meeting-Hope UMC	21 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers Rehearsal	22 8:00 am Dirt Devils	23	24 10:00 am Sew & Sows 1:00 pm UMW	25	26
27 9:00 am Formed for Faith 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Choir rehearsal 5:00 pm Prayer meeting-Hope UMC	28 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers Rehearsal	29 8:00 am Dirt Devils	30	31 10:00 am Sew & Sows		

NOVEMBER 2019

St. James United Methodist Church

DEADLINE FOR
DECEMBER-JANUARY
EPISTLE:
NOVEMBER 20TH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
9:00 am Formed 3 for Faith 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Choir rehearsal 5:00 pm Prayer meeting-Hope UMC	4 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers	5 8:00 am Dirt Devils	6 10:00 am Sew & Sows	7 10:00 am Sew & Sows	8	9
9:00 am Formed 10 for Faith 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Choir rehearsal	11 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers	12 8:00 am Dirt Devils	13 7:00 pm Focus	14 10:00 am Sew & Sows	15	16
9:00 am Formed 17 for Faith 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Choir rehearsal 5:00 pm Prayer meeting-Hope UMC	18 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers	19 8:00 am Dirt Devils	20	21 10:00 am Sew & Sows 1:00 pm UMW	22	23
9:00 am Formed 24 for Faith 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Choir rehearsal 5:00 pm Prayer meeting-Hope UMC	25 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers	26 8:00 am Dirt Devils	27	28  Thanksgiving Day	29	30



In Memorium

Please keep the family of Pat Berds in your prayers. She passed into her final rest on Sunday, September 8th, after a long illness. Pat was a very active supporter of both St. James and Little Wonders, and will be greatly missed.



Come join us for our next **drive through** convenience meal from **Hope United Methodist Church!!**
2914 Upper Mountain Road, Sanbornton

Menu: Chili, cornbread muffin, and dessert
Cost: \$3.00 per person
When: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 4:30-6:00
Drop-ins are welcome, reservations are strongly encouraged. Please call the church office at 731-9737 and leave a message no later than Monday, September 30th, this will insure you won't miss out!

WANTED: CHOIR MEMBERS



Positions Open: Alto, Bass, Tenor, Soprano - no others need apply!
Physical Requirements: Must be able to carry a tune and see the choir director from 20 feet away.
Experience: Applications accepted from people who have hummed, sung, or whistled while in the car, tub, or shower. Able to sing in public is a plus.
Wages: Satisfaction and joy in the Lord's service!!
Rehearsals: Every Sunday morning at 10:30 am.
Apply: With choir director or by attending our first rehearsal!



(Borrowed from North Tonawanda First UMC)

E-Giving at St. James!

St. James United Methodist Church continues to offer an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically

from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

To get started, visit the church website and locate the online giving page, scan the image you see here using your phone's QR code reader, or download the *Joyfully2UMC* app from the App Store or Google Play store.

For more information, please talk to Craig Stonebraker.

(And if this doesn't interest you at all, that's okay! We'll still be passing the plate on Sunday, and you can still give the way you always have.)



the OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2019

ST. JAMES *Epistle*

KEEPING CURRENT:

Weekly bulletin

Bulletin boards

Centered in Christ weekly email newsletter
(Sign up on our website or *Facebook* page,
or leave your email address in the office.)

The Epistle newsletter (You can also find it on our website.)

Our website: stjamesniagara.org

Facebook (Search *stjamesniagara*, or link from our website)



ST. JAMES *UMC*

4661 Porter Road
Niagara Falls, NY 14305