

Saint James United Church

August 6 , 2017 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7M1H1

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Minister's Office 328-3191 Minister's Cell Phone No: 323-1304

Minister: Rev. Debra Baker

Music Director and Organist: Amy Anderson

Guest Organist: Marjorie Hewson

Admin. Assistant: Mary Wheelan C.D. Coordinator: Joan Hall

Ushers: Mary Dimock, Ruby MacNabb



Welcome all visitors and their families who may be worshipping with us this morning. We pray that you will feel at home here at Saint James and that you will feel the presence of God's Holy Spirit, as we worship. After the service please introduce yourself to Rev. Debra., sign our guest book at the back of the sanctuary and join us for Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in the Board Room.

WE GATHER

Prelude

Introit VU#412 – This Is the Day (vs.1)

Welcome

Question to ponder What struggles have you had that made you stronger in faith?

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 6	Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
	Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in Board Room	
August 10	Dedication of Labyrinth	6:00 p.m.
August 13	Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
	Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in Board Room	
Sept. 10 th	Sunday School Opening for Fall	

SCENT FREE ENVIRONMENT: *A few of our congregation members have been experiencing problems due to perfumes in the church. We have tried to maintain a Scent Free Environment within Saint James United Church. We would like to remind everyone to please consider this request and refrain from wearing perfumes.*

*If you have noticed someone missing from our congregation, please contact them by phone or visit them in person.
You may be their "angel."*

TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 32:22-31

²²The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Matthew 14:13-21

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Call to Worship

You call to us, Lord,

and in worship we answer.

We wrestle with life and love, with faith and doubt.

and in worship you answer.

Gather us in, Lord, every part of us:

the resistant and the eager, the champion and the underdog, the empty and the full.

Gather us into your presence, your family, your kingdom.

Gather us in this time of worship,

as we call to you again.

(Written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet. **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2014, page 30. Used by permission.)

Prayer of Opening

O God of nighttime visits and daylight assurance, we come to this time of worship to wrestle with who we are, and who you call us to be. Search our hearts and know us thoroughly. We long to meet you face to face, even if the encounter leaves us forever changed. With open ears and ready hearts, touch us with your words and transform us with your presence. Amen.

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Hymn

VU#410 – This Day God Gives Me

Prayer of Confession

God of mystery and power, in the midst of our fears and doubts, you call us home. Too often, when we are weary, we lack the courage to take time apart to regain our strength. Too often, when our faith wavers, we seek safety in our own clever schemes. Too often, when faced with those in need, we throw up our hands in defeat, sure that there is nothing we can do. Stay with us when we have need of you, O God, and bless us in our struggles, that we might be a blessing for others. Amen.

(time for silent prayer)

Words of Forgiveness

Awaken to the good news of God's love: in Christ, we are forgiven and given strength for the journey. Rise up and see God face to face as you are fed by God's gracious hand.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

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WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem

Scripture Genesis 32:22-31
 Psalm 17, VU p.739
 Matthew 14:13-21

Message

Music for Reflection

Hymn MV#65 – When We Are Tested (*tune: VU#642*)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Presentation of the Offering

Offertory *What can I do? What can I bring?
 What can I say? What can I sing?
 I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
 I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.*

Offertory prayer

Source of Compassion, all that you have given us is yours. May our gifts become loaves and fish for those who are hungry. May our offerings become love and light for those who are lost and afraid. Teach us the joy that comes from sharing our abundance with those who live in want, that the world may be fed and made whole again. Amen.

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Minute for Mission

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn VU#422 – God Be with You till We Meet Again

Blessing and Sending Forth

Go forth, knowing that God has heard our cry and will give us the strength to follow God's call.

We go forth to touch the lives of others, as our lives have been touched by God.

Go and be the face of God to a world that so desperately needs the loving, affirming face of God.

We go with the knowledge that the wrestling God is with us always. Amen.

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Choral Amen VU#967 – Amen

Postlude

**The bulletin today is to Welcome our friends
 from St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.
 So glad you are here.
Phyllis Robinson and Friends of Saint James.**

**WHAT'S A GREETING CARD
AUTHOR UNKNOWN**

*It's a little piece of paper
That tells someone how you are
It can be a ray of sunshine
It can be a wish or prayer.*

*It can simply say "I love you"
Or just say "I understand"
It can be a little visit
Or the clasp of someone's hand.*

*It can be a word of comfort
When somebody's heart is sad
It can be a smile or chuckle
Making someone's heart feel glad.*

*It can help keep folks together
Even though they're far apart
It can show someone you're thankful
From the bottom of your heart.*

*It can travel any distance
In all kinds of weather, too
And it has the magic something
That some big things never do.*

*Yes, it's just a piece of paper
And it costs no big amount
But it proves that old, old saying
"It's the little things that count.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scripture Readings for August 13, 2017:

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Ps 105; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

LOVE CHILDREN? LOVE GOD?

WANTED: *Men or Women interested in being
Sunday School Teachers*

Nursery Workers

*Classes Ages 5 - 7 yrs.
8 - 12 yrs.*

*At the most you need to prepare for 11 Sundays in 2017 –
Whole People of God Curriculum is being used.
Lessons, crafts etc. suggested and explained for you.*

*With Fall fast approaching we are looking
at a few of our Annual Events.*

*Pie Making, Yard Sale, Regular Programs,
Fall Supper*

***We are currently looking for a coordinator for our
Pie Making Project. We have started to purchase
our supplies and more information will be coming.***

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY SUPPORT GROUP

This support group meets at Saint James the 3rd Monday of each month. The next meeting will be from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on August 21st. All those who are care givers may like to mark this on your calendars. Please call the church office to confirm meetings over the summer, as sometimes there are changes.

COFFEE HOUR *We serve coffee and tea after church and if you wish to bring a snack to share, please feel free to do so. We still need volunteers for setup and cleanup. Thank you.*

UPPER ROOMS FOR JULY AND AUGUST *have arrived and are located at the back of the church. (Cost 3.00.)*

SUIMMER CONCERTS to Celebrate the 175th Anniversary of St. Gertrude's Parish, Woodstock, NB

You are invited to attend the noon hour concerts to be held at St. Gertrude's Church, 111 Union Street, Woodstock, NB in celebration of the 175th anniversary of the parish. The concerts feature local and parish musicians and singers.

All concerts with one exception, will begin at 12:05 pm and conclude at 12:45 pm.

The scheduled performers are:

Friday, August 11—*Kathy Cox, Mary Hanson, Candido DaCunha* (organ, piano)

Wednesday, August 16—*Alie Ross* (vocal)

TBA---**The Goodine Family** (vocal, instrumental)

The Bahar Children (instrumental)

Come and enjoy these concerts during your noon hour this summer.

COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!!

We've made it to Jerusalem and have toured around the city. Now it's time to head for home. If we start walking now, we can plan to be in Woodstock for Christmas. Sheet is back on the Bulletin Board to record our Kms. Let's Go!!