

# Streetsville United Church

## Christmas Tidings 2016

274 Queen St. S.  
Mississauga, ON L5M 1L8

905-826-1542

[info@streetsvilleunited.ca](mailto:info@streetsvilleunited.ca)

[www.streetsvilleunited.ca](http://www.streetsvilleunited.ca)



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## CALENDAR

**Sunday Services** 10 a.m.

### Christmas Services

#### Advent Sundays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 27<sup>th</sup> Communion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Children's White Gift Service
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Choir Christmas Worship
- 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Celebration

#### Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Celebration

**4:00 pm** Christmas Worship for small children

**7:00 pm** Contemporary Christmas Worship - music from our bands!

**10:30 pm** Communion Service

#### Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day

**10:00 am** Christmas Worship Service with many favourite carols

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tue. Dec 6 7:15 pm – Annual UCW Christmas** meeting and service – see UCW pg. 2.

**Sun. Dec 11 - Music Appreciation Sunday** see Pastoral Care pg. 2.

**Wed. Jan 25 – Chase the Chill** pg. 3

**Sat. Feb 25 – Annual Coldest Night of the Year Walk**

The Streetsville United Faith in Action Team is planning to take to the streets and walk in support of The DAM.

**Sat. Apr 29 – Church Garage Sale**

Mark your calendars now for this annual fundraiser! See Garage Sale pg. 2

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

As we were planning ahead for our Christmas services this year we soon realized that Christmas Day falls on Sunday. The question was: "Would we have a service that day after three Christmas Eve services?" The answer is Yes! There will plenty of opportunities for you to worship and celebrate the birth of the Saviour this year. Our biggest Christmas worship service will be on Sunday, Dec. 18. But we also look forward to our children's White Gift service on Dec. 4 and the Choir Christmas Presentation on Dec. 11. Both are always very wonderful services and I know that John Shillingberg and the Choir have some special music planned for us this year. I hear them rehearsing it already on Wednesday evenings.

We certainly have much to be thankful for as a church family as we come to the end of 2016. Yes, there are some challenges ahead yet we were the beneficiaries of some wonderful gifts this year which are being used to enhance the work of the church. A very generous monetary gift was presented to the church by Gary Clipperton and the Justus group as they closed their books after 40 years of providing musical entertainment in this community and beyond. Furthermore, I am encouraged by the people who have stepped forward to fill important roles in the life of the church. I am thankful for Richard Wilkins who has offered his gifts as leader of our Sunday School and for John Woods who has taken on the role of Board Secretary very capably. Our Syrian refugee sponsorship program took an unexpected turn this fall but we are back on track again sponsoring a different family and individual. We look forward to meeting them when they arrive in Canada and helping them settle in their new home. Our refugee sponsorship group has been working wisely and diligently on this project, and we are all proud of their commitment.

There are many other people and examples I could mention but let me say that I am thankful for all of you who make Streetsville United Church a vital part of the Body of Christ. I very much look forward to celebrating Christmas with the whole church family.

Isaiah 9:6 - "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

May God Bless you with peace throughout this Advent and Christmas season and even forevermore.

Rev. John



## Church Food Pantry

Please take note that the Benevolent Fund of loose offering collected on Communion Sundays is used by us to purchase \$15 Freshco grocery vouchers and bus tickets given to our clients, along with food from our cupboard and personal care and cleaning kits. These less fortunate people are invited to come here once every 30 days for help and are very grateful to Streetsville United Church for our support, so THANK YOU.

**Outreach at our church back door** – In mid-December Adelaide will be collecting money to help with the Streetsville Home Christmas Project.

## Garage Sale 2017

Our annual garage sale will be held on **Saturday APRIL 29** from 9am – 1pm. Please be one of the many VOLUNTEERS (men, women & high school youth) to make this event our best yet. There are many aspects to our sale – main sale in auditorium, book sale on the stage, kids' room in the Fellowship Lounge, silent auction & cafeteria in Heritage Hall and jewellery etc. in the narthex. We are looking for silent auction items (new and/or better quality items) + jewellery can be given to Adelaide anytime. Also, if you have any indoor/outdoor plants we will be selling these in our garden section. Further details will be provided in early April. Remember, your HELP will be needed so block off some time the week and day of this major church FUNDRAISER. Any questions – speak to or phone Adelaide 905-812-9483. Thank you!

## STREETSVILLE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)

The UCW will be hosting our annual Christmas general meeting on Tuesday December 6 at 7:15 in the sanctuary. This is always a special service of Christmas music and carols, readings and refreshments. The guest artist this year is Diane Ticknor, who will share musical numbers and special readings of the season. Christmas is a time of giving so we invite you to bring gifts for residents at the Elizabeth Fry society, (toiletries, personal items, note paper etc.). Gift bags for Open Door are also appreciated (see the last page for suggestions) or gift cards for teens (Walmart, Shoppers, Tim Hortons) will be distributed through the Children's Aid. Refreshments and fellowship follow the service in Heritage Hall. Please plan to join us for this special Christmas event!

## FROM THE PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

### Fall Potluck:

We had a great turnout at our Fall Potluck lunch on October 16<sup>th</sup>! The food selection was delicious and there was lots to go 'round. One of the nicest things about this event each year is getting our Church family together (over food of course). Thanks to everyone who stayed after church for the gathering...hope to see you again next year.

### Music Appreciation Sunday:

Mark your calendars! December 11<sup>th</sup> is Music Appreciation Sunday, a special time at coffee hour where we say thank you to the Choirs, the bands, and all those involved in bringing the gift of music to us each Sunday. Join us for cake and coffee as we show our appreciation for the wonderful music program we have at our church.



### Prayer Chain:

Did you know? Several members of our congregation join together in prayer to make up our Prayer Chain. We pray on our own but at the same time, for the strengthening of others. Would you like to be part of

this group? We can give you a few tips about 'how-to' pray, but really, it's just like talking to God about our request. Please let Reverend John or Kate Sparrow know if you're interested. New members are always welcome.

### Ride to Church?

Would you like to get to our church Sunday mornings but don't have a ride? Maybe you aren't able to drive or aren't feeling up to it. Please let Kelly at the church office know if you would like a ride to and from church so you can join your church family Sunday mornings. Call the office at 905-826-1542 and give her your name. Thank you.

## OUTREACH

### Update on Our Syrian Refugee Sponsorships

It's been approximately 1 year since we started the Northwest Constituent Group to sponsor Syrian refugees to Mississauga. In that year we've raised over \$62,000 plus provided a monthly stipend to the first family we hoped to sponsor. The initial family sponsorship fell through this Fall and we have re-started the process.

The constituent group has selected to now sponsor an individual and a small family. We anticipate that it could take up to a year for one or both of these to finally arrive in Canada.

The individual is a 27-year old man currently living in Egypt. He is highly educated and speaks fluent English. He is not allowed to work legally in Egypt although he is currently working as a freelance translator. He is also working on a post-graduate university degree. He has an on-going correspondence, with excellent English, with one of our constituent members and he is looking forward to beginning a new life in Canada.

The small family consists of a father, mother and a 3-year old daughter and the mother is expecting a baby in January. The family is currently living in UAE (United Arab Emirates) where they have a temporary visa. They are also educated and speak English as a second language.

We will keep you updated with the progress of their applications. Please keep them all in your prayers.





## Streetsville United Church Anniversary - 140 Years!

Did you know that our church (at least the Sanctuary and Heritage Hall) was built in 1876, *just* 140 years ago! This building has served the congregation and community very well over those years. Generations have worshipped, been baptized, educated, confirmed, married and committed to God's eternal care in this place. One of the things newcomers and visitors often comment on is the simple beauty and warmth of our sanctuary (which has been upgraded in many ways but not greatly changed from the original design). Our sanctuary is a place where many people discover the presence and the peace of God.

This church was fairly typical of the Methodist churches being built in Canada at the time, though each church seemed to have a unique feature or two. Perhaps one of the special features here is the wrap-around balcony which serves to bring all worshippers closer to one another and to the pulpit and choir loft area. The design gives a sense of the saints gathering together around the throne of God. It is a design which still serves us well. Thanks to the original builders who built so well and set a good foundation on large stones drawn in from surrounding farm fields. And even as they set those stones in place they did so with the full awareness that "The Church's One Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord." Many thanks as well, to all those who through the years, including in our own day and generation, have loved this church and dedicated their time, energy and money to making this a very special place of worship for God's people.

Rev. John



## Chase the Chill

**Wednesday, January 25** members of Streetsville United will be once again tying scarves throughout town, free to anyone who needs a scarf or simply wants one. Chase the Chill is an opportunity to provide generous outreach to our community in a way that also demonstrates we are a welcoming congregation. Yarn and simple patterns are available to anyone who would like to knit or crochet a scarf which should be approximately 8" in width and 48" in length. We are happy to accept purchased donations, gently used scarves or those made of polar fleece.



## Christmas Chuckle

### Saying a Prayer for his Christmas Meal...

Lee, a seven-year-old boy, was asked to say thanks for the Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. Lee began his prayer, thanking God for his Mommy, Daddy, brothers, sister, Grandma, and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food.

He gave thanks for the turkey, the stuffing, the Christmas pudding, even the cranberry sauce. Then lee paused, and everyone waited ... and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the Brussels sprouts, won't he know that I'm lying?"





## Christmas 2016 Gift Bag Guidelines



Thank you for joining together in the effort to bless those in need in our own community through this program! Please pray for those you are purchasing for, and it is our prayer that you will be blessed yourself, and experience God's joy over this giving! A few guidelines, examples and suggestions...

**Please do not wrap the gifts, place gift cards in an envelope marked "Gift Card" with the amount on the card.**

### **Teen and Adult Male gift bag examples:**

Chocolate, Bus Tickets, Axe Toiletries, \$25 EB Games gift card, Shortbread, XL Fleece Robe, \$25 McDonalds gift card.

**Favourites:** Axe Toiletries, Movies, EB Games, Fast Food gift Cards Walmart cards, warm socks, Sports teams apparel, warm robes, blankets or bedsheets, Working Gloves

### **Teen Girl and Women's gift bag examples:**

Chocolate, Large plush Robe, \$25 Movie gift card, Candy, Bath and Body works toiletry gift set, \$25 Chapters gift card

**Favourites:** Bath and Body Works, Chapters, Walmart, EB Games Square One Gift Cards (great for clothing), warm robes, warm throws, bed sheets, Headphones

### **Baby boy or Girl 0-2 examples:**

New Ty Stuffed Animal, \$50 square one or walmart gift card

Eric Carle Board book, Rubber Keys, \$40 Shoppers Drug Mart

The idea is to have something an infant or young baby can touch, but the real gift is a certificate for mom towards the baby's needs. **Favourites: Walmart, Toys R Us**

### **Young boy 2-6 examples:**

Spider Man Build A Bear, chocolate spiderman, \$25 Walmart card, Hotwheels track set, Chocolate or Candy, \$30 Square One Voucher

**Favourites:** SUPERHEROES! Leggo, Paw Patrol, Remote control toys.

### **Young girl 2-6 examples:**

1 nice toy to open right away, edible treat, 1 gift card well marked in envelope for parent to choose a toy themselves. A Build-A-Bear, Candy, \$25 Gift Certificate to Build a Bear to buy outfits, Special Baby Doll, Chocolates, \$30 Square One Certificate

**Favourites:** Disney princess Build a Bear, special arts and crafts kits, Leggo Friends, Shopkins, Dolls.

### **Boys 7-10 examples:**

1 surprise to enjoy right away, 1 edible treat, 1 gift card well marked in envelope for parent to choose a gift Toblerone Bar with a \$30 EB Games card taped on, \$30 Square One Gift Card, Star Wars Advanced Leggo set, candy, \$25 Chapters/Indigo card

**Favourites:** Advanced leggo set, Sports logo stuff, Meccano Erector sets, Science Kits, Razor Rip Stik, MARVEL SUPERHEROES eg Avengers, Hulk Spiderman, Remote Control, Mini Hockey sticks, (gift certificates are popular at this age, so you can even do candy with an EB Games certificate for the child to open the night of the dinner and another certificate in envelope for mom to give)

### **Girls 7-10 examples:**

1 gift to enjoy right away, one edible treat and 1 gift card well marked in envelope for parent to choose a gift.

Leggo Friends advanced, candy kit, \$25 Walmart, Lip Balm set with \$30 Justice certificate, \$25 Square One certificate

**Favourites:** Creative Art Kits, Toiletries, Build a Bear, Claires, Justice, Chapters and Clothing. (gift certificates are popular at this age, so you may even do candy with a certificate for the child to open the night of the dinner, and one in envelope for mom to give.

## **EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO CELEBRATE AT HOME**

**Above and beyond** the feasting and celebrating of Christmas at the annual dinner, the goal is to send everyone home with a customary gift bag **as well** as the means to celebrate at home again.

Grocery card per person \$25 - \$50

Gift card for each member of family to go home with \$25 - \$50

We can use vouchers from all different stores but our favourites are the PC/No Frills grocery cards and Square One Shopping Centre gift cards as they can be used anywhere in the mall and are so flexible.

**Helpful Items:** Gently Used Coats, Snow Pants, Boots, Square One and Wal-Mart gift cards, All Grocery gift cards esp. No Frills PC etc, Quality Hat Glove and Scarf sets, New One Size Fits all Robes, New Warm Pyjamas all sizes, Quality Toiletry sets, Coffee shop and fast food gift cards e.g. Tim's, McDonalds, Bus Tickets, Gum, Chocolates, Christmas candy, Christmas Cards