

Streetsville United Church Christmas Tidings 2017

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Happy Birthday Jesus!

CALENDAR

Sunday Services 10 a.m.

Christmas Services

Advent Sundays

- 1st Dec 3rd Holy Communion
- 2nd Dec 10th Sunday School White Gift Service
- 3rd Dec 17th Choir Christmas Worship
- 4th Dec 24th Christmas Eve

Sunday December 24th Christmas Eve Celebration

- 10:00 am** Christmas Worship
- 7:00 pm** Contemporary Christmas Celebration - music from our bands!
- 10:30 pm** Christmas Eve Communion Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tue. Dec 5 7:15 pm – Annual UCW Christmas meeting and service – see UCW pg. 2.

Sun. Dec 17 - Music Appreciation Sunday see Pastoral Care pg. 2.

Wed. Jan 24 – Chase the Chill pg. 3

Sat. Feb 24 – 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.

Sun. Feb 25 – Annual Meeting

Sat. Apr 28 – Church Garage Sale

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



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

"What are you waiting for this Advent season?" someone asked. But the real question for Christians is "Who are you waiting for?" For us this season is not about a "what" but a "who". And the who is Jesus. So yes, we are waiting for Jesus to come again in glory as Judge and King of all. We are preparing for that time by keeping awake, for we do not know the day or the hour. We keep awake by allowing our lamps to be filled with the oil of true faith, and by our continuing good works. We are steadfast in faith, in works, in proclamation, in service.

But in another sense we don't have to wait for Christ, because he has already come and he is among us now. Christmas looks back and celebrates the first coming of our Lord and Saviour. The One who is coming again has already come among us as the babe of Bethlehem, the incarnate Son of God who did God's work among us, who brought God's Kingdom near by his teaching and his mighty works. Then he died on the cross for our sins and rose again to be lifted to the Father's right hand in glory. He is in our midst by the power of the Holy Spirit. We don't have to wait for his arrival now for we can know him now. Our Lord draws near. And in word, in worship, in fellowship and at his table we come to know him and his presence with us now.

So this season is not just a time of waiting for something that will happen. Nor is it just a time of looking back to his birth. It is a time to experience Christ's presence now and renew our faith in the One called "Emmanuel, God with us." I encourage us all to connect and reconnect with Christ and with the church family this Christmas. If you have been away for a while, know that the door is open. We miss you and your presence here during this month will be a real blessing.

Now there are two services I am waiting for this Advent season with great anticipation. One is the **Sunday School White Gift Service on December 10**. Our Sunday School prepares diligently for this service every year. The children's presentation and interpretation of the Christmas story always lifts our spirits and encourages our faith. The second is **Choir Christmas Worship Service on December 17**. This year John and the choir will present selections from Handel's Messiah. This will be a thrilling service, for sure. Both these services deserve full support from the congregation.

Let me say a special thank you to all who have worked hard over this past year to accomplish wonderful projects in our church (air-conditioning and the memorial garden for two), and also to everyone who values and supports our mission to make known and to spread the love and grace of God in Jesus Christ.

May God bless us all with peace and hope and love during this Advent and Christmas season.

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.

Garage Sale 2018

Our annual garage sale is on **Saturday APRIL 28** 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) and 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 WOMEN (UCW)

The UCW will be hosting our annual Christmas general meeting on Tuesday December 5 at 7:15 in the sanctuary. This is always a special service to welcome the Christmas season with music, carols, readings and refreshments. The guest artist this year is Suzanne Baresich - her theme is "Christmas from a Woman's Perspective". Christmas is a time of giving and so we invite you to bring gifts for residents at the Elizabeth Fry Society (toiletries, personal items, notepaper etc.) Gift bags for the Open Door are also appreciated (see Open Door for suggestions). Gift cards for teens (Walmart, Shoppers, Tim Hortons) will be distributed through the Children's Aid. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the service in Heritage Hall. Please save the date and join us for this special Christmas event!

FROM THE PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

Food + Fellowship = Festive Fall Fun!

Our Fall potluck lunch was a great success! Many of us stayed after church on October 15th to enjoy a delicious lunch with our church family. Thanks to everyone who brought a dish to share and joined in on the good time we had.

Stay for Coffee Hour: Sunday December 17th

To celebrate the wonderful music programs at our church, we will be serving cake at coffee hour on Sunday December 17th...join us and show your appreciation!

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.



OUTREACH

Update on Our Syrian Refugee Sponsorships

TAREK refugee application (single man, student, residing in Egypt)

The application has been approved by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) pending a medical certification. We are hopeful that we might see Tarek here by year end or early next year.

NADEEM refugee application (family of 4 residing in UAE)

We have no progress to report on this file. This family still awaits an interview with CIC.

HAMID refugee application (family of 4 in Lebanon)

After careful consideration Norwest decided to take up a new application. We were approached by a private sponsor living in Mississauga through our United Church SAH office about this file. This application was submitted to CIC this past summer by Norwest as a joint application between Norwest and the private sponsor. The Mississauga family is supplying all the financial support for this application. A member of the Mississauga family has agreed to assist in settling our refugees when they arrive. The family member is entirely fluent in English and Arabic and we have developed an excellent working relationship with her.

HOUDA refugee family

This is a refugee family currently living in Mississauga near Square One. It is a mother and adult daughter and they are fully funded. Norwest has agreed to provide material assistance to this family. Scheduling, appointments, assisting in day to day needs where required as their original sponsor was not able. We viewed this opportunity as a way that we could help in the refugee cause now and gain some valuable insight into refugee needs as we endure the lengthy wait on our files. There is no financial commitment on Norwest's part to this file.

Please keep all these individuals and families in your prayers.





CHASE THE CHILL 2018

Thanks to many pairs of hands and kind donations, Streetsville United has tied almost 400 hundred scarves over the past 2 years to lamp posts and fences in Streetsville, very early on a cold January morning! The scarves are available to anyone who needs one or simply likes one. Each comes with a tag indicating that the scarf is a gift from Streetsville United Church. On **January 24** we will again be tying scarves along Queen Street and welcome your donations of knitted or crocheted scarves, or those that are gently used. Yarn and patterns are available and we ask that the completed scarf be returned to the church by January 21. Can't knit...there will be other ways to support this project, stay tuned!

Gail Boulton and Karen Monk



Madeline Tume & Caitlin Bridel

Madeline Tume and Caitlin Bridel will be performing in the Sound of Music at the Living Arts Centre on Saturday, December 16, 2017. There will be two performances at the RBC Theatre - a matinee at 2:00 PM and an evening show at 7:00 PM. This production is being presented by the P.L.A.Y. Project, a youth theatre company. This is a wonderful opportunity for our girls to experience the process of staging a theatrical production under the direction of industry professionals. They had to undergo an audition process to be chosen to join the cast. We have to give credit to the wonderful youth music program at our church and the talented teachers that we have - Miss Karen, Miss Kim, Miss Dee, Mr Chris and Mr Wayne.

MESSAGE FROM FINANCE

Financial Position as of OCTOBER 31, 2017

	ACTUAL 2017-10-31	BUDGET 2017-10-31
Total Revenue	237,982	234,490
Total Expenses	232,963	234,490
NET INCOME	5,019	-

Our actual revenue exceeded budget by \$3,492 and our actual total expenses are \$1,527 lower than forecasted. To date, our church is in a net positive position for the first 10 months of 2017 by \$5,019.

Should there be a surplus by year-end, it will be forwarded into 2018 fiscal year. These funds can be used for future projects, community outreach, Christian Education, or other planned activities to grow our Christian Community.

So far this year, we have paid for our new A/C system, remodeled the choir room kitchenette, built a new storage room at the front of the sanctuary to house our sound equipment, installed a new fence for our Willow Tree Montessori School, and built a new Memorial Garden for loved ones who have passed, to name a few of our initiatives. These projects have been completed and made possible by congregational giving's and donations.



Neil Beattie, Randa Tadros

HARVEST OF CRAFTS SALE SUCCESS!



On behalf of the UCW, I would like to sincerely thank everyone in our congregation for supporting so generously our Harvest of Crafts Sale in October.

The main purpose of our UCW is to support one another in our Christian faith and we meet for fellowship and have some fun along the way. We have been fortunate enough over the years to also raise funds to support our church and local and

international charities.

Our Craft Sale is the sole fundraising event for the UCW presently and we appreciate so much all the support everyone gave to make this event a great success!

Thank you all for your offers of food for the Cafe, baking and preserves for the Country Kitchen, books for the Used Book Sale, donated crafts/knitting and Attic Treasures.

We would like to send a special thank you to all those who helped setting up, manning the booths and elevator, advertising the sale and bringing friends to come and enjoy the day shopping at our many gifted Community Vendors, our own UCW Crafts and enjoying all the delicious offerings from our All Day Cafe.

With everyone's help, we are happy to report that we have raised over \$8,500.00.

Thank you again and great efforts everyone!

Katie Powell



WHITE GIFT SUNDAY

Sunday December 10th – the congregation is invited to support the Salvation Army Toy Drive with the donation of unwrapped toys or gift cards.

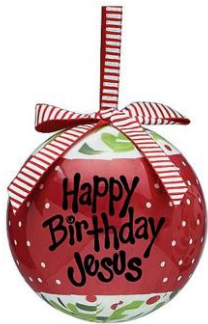
CHRISTMAS CHUCKLES

The Three Wise Women

You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise WOMEN instead of men, don't you? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable diapers as gifts!

What Christmas Carol is a favourite of parents?

Silent Night!



A Christmas Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Please forgive me for being so grumpy as I trudge through the never-ending tasks set before me this holiday season...
My to-do list seems to keep growing with shopping, church services, and family gatherings---
and I'm running short of time!
Restore the joy of Christmas to my heart . . .
and help me to relax each day and make time for
YOU--
MY ONE TRUE SOURCE OF JOY.



OPEN DOOR

Open Door is located at Square One on the lower level outside the Bay. They will be giving a gift & serving a Christmas dinner to 300 people on Thursday Dec. 14th & are asking for the following gifts listed below. There is also a paper copy available on the UCW board outside the Fellowship Lounge.

We will be collecting these items on Tuesday December 5th at our Christmas meeting if you would like to make a donation or speak to Donna Moss to donate at church by Sunday December 3rd.

Thank you & God Bless You!
Donna Moss

Christmas Gifts Suggestions 2017

Men, Women and Teens:

Gift cards- \$25 Walmart or President's Choice or Coffee, or \$10 fast food. Please place in a festive gift card holder (available at a dollar store) with a "Bless You" message inside.

Candies

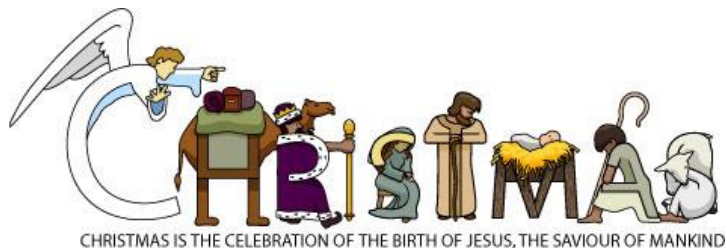
Kids gift bag (boy or girl):

Squishie or Ty Beanie Boos

\$25 Walmart gift card

Candy or chips

Please label the contents so we know what it is and what is inside (Woman, Man, Child, Chapters, Walmart, i.e.)



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND