

# Streetsville United Church Christmas Tidings 2019

## Peace on Earth

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### CALENDAR

**Sunday Services** 10 a.m.

#### Christmas Services

#### **Advent Sundays**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1<sup>nd</sup>** Holy Communion  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 8<sup>th</sup>** Sunday School White Gift Service  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 15<sup>th</sup>** Senior Choir Christmas Worship  
**4<sup>th</sup> Dec 22<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Celebration Service

#### **Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Christmas Eve Celebration**

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tue. Dec 3 7:15 pm - Annual UCW Christmas** meeting and service - see UCW pg. 2.

**Sun. Dec 8 - White Gift Sunday**

**Sun. Dec 15 - Music Appreciation Sunday** - celebration and cake at coffee hour.

**Sat. Feb 22, 2020 - 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 23, 2020 - Black History Sunday** with guest speaker.

**Sun. Mar 1, 2020 - Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Sat. Apr 25, 2020 - Church Garage Sale**

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

### MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Choosing a card for a special occasion can be somewhat challenging. Certainly there are plenty to choose from, but it can be difficult finding one with just the right words to express your thoughts and feelings. It's much the same when you sit down to write a note to someone. It can take several attempts to find the right words. Even if when you send it off, you wonder if you got the words right and whether the recipient will really grasp what you mean to say. Preachers face this kind of challenge each week in writing and delivering sermons. By God's grace we sometimes get it right and you get it, too!

At the first Christmas God sent forth his perfect word. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1, 14) That word is named Jesus, sent at just the right time. "In the fullness of time God sent forth his Son..." All that God wants to say to the human race is in this one word - Jesus. There is no word of God greater, clearer, or beyond this word. Jesus is the word which perfectly expresses the mind and will and loving-kindness of God. He is God's saving word, God's revealing word, God's hope-filled word, God's final word. Jesus is the one Word of God whom we must we hear and obey above all other words. Jesus is the one Word of God whom we must trust in life and in death. The book of Hebrews tells us, "Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways...but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son. (Hebrews 1:1,2)

Christmas celebrates and proclaims the coming of God's most perfect word into the world. And behind the Bethlehem cradle stands the cross and resurrection. All that Jesus did and said and accomplished for us is God's word to the human race. So let me suggest that you if you send a Christmas card this year which somewhere includes the name Jesus, you have sent a Christmas card which is just right.

As always, we celebrate Christmas in various ways and with a variety of special services here at Streetsville United Church. I very much look forward to the Sunday School White Gift service and the Choir's Christmas Service as well as the two services on Christmas Eve. The schedule of December services is listed left.

This will my 20<sup>th</sup> and last Christmas season here at Streetsville United. They have all been special to me, but I am sure this one will particularly stay in my memory. I am looking forward to a wonderful celebration of Christmas with our church family.

May God bless us all with the hope and peace of this holy season. With much gratitude, Adelaide, Julie and I wish all of you a very blessed Christmas.

Rev. John



## Garage Sale 2020

This annual church fundraiser is to be held on **Saturday April 25, 2020**, only months away. We are asking our church family to mark this date on your calendar, as many VOLUNTEERS are needed during the week prior and the day of. Jewellery can be given to Adelaide from now until April 1. Silent auction items are needed as well as garage sale items. If you or someone you know can provide items, please hold on to them until the week prior to the sale. If unable to store at home please speak to Adelaide and we will see if we can find storage at the church. Our 2019 garage sale netted \$7,000 (our best in 18 years). More details to follow closer to the date. Thank you!

## STREETSVILLE UNITED WOMEN (UCW)

### UCW Christmas Meeting

The UCW invites the congregation to the annual Christmas meeting on **Tuesday December 3 at 7:15** in the sanctuary.

The program will feature Laurie Atkins assisted by her husband Lorne. Laurie is a gospel singer, musician, composer, actress and playwright. She will be presenting music and drama in a production titled "Messenger and the Message" – a story of the Angel Gabriel and the birth of Jesus. This will be an inspiring message as we begin this Advent season.

Refreshments will be served in Heritage Hall following the service. Gifts will be collected for the Elizabeth Fry Society (toiletries suggested) and the Open Door. Small gift bags with a gift card (Loblaws, Walmart, Tim Horton's) and perhaps candy or chocolate are requested for about 250 people that Open Door serves at their annual dinner. Please attach a ribbon and note on the outside indicating the contents of the bag. These gift bags can be given to Donna Moss by Dec 1 or brought to the Christmas service on Dec 3. Your generosity is appreciated. Thank you!



### Book Sale

The ongoing book, DVD, CD, games & puzzle sale on the stage has raised \$625 to date this year. This amount does not include the garage sale or craft sale. We thank everyone who has donated to this fundraiser. Please visit the auditorium stage and browse the great selection!

## HARVEST OF CRAFTS SALE SUCCESS!

On behalf of the UCW, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the whole congregation for their wonderful support of our Craft Sale event this year! Not only did we provide a positive and welcoming event at our church, but we also raised over \$9,000.00 in support of our church as well as some local, national and international charities.

Blessings,  
Katie Powell

### Children's Aid 2019

Thank you to those who donated towards the Children's Aid. Without you we could not do what we do. We are always looking for more people to donate as the demand is ever growing.

This year we delivered 38 boys and 35 girls' layettes as well as 3 bags of assorted knitting and clothes.

A layette consists of 1 receiving blanket, a diaper, a onesie, a sleeper, a hat (or knitted jacket and hat).

The layettes are for 0-3 months and anyone wishing to donate please contact me.

Anita King 905-826-8208



## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Welcome Team consists of members who welcome all to the church every Sunday. Many of the members have been performing this function for the past 5 years and continue to do so even when they have other responsibilities. That may include assisting with communion, driving seniors to church and back to their home, or counting the collection after the service. If you would like to join the welcome team please speak with any of members of the Worship committee.

Merry Christmas from the Worship Committee:  
Heather Drew, Wally Bridel and Ruth Kochanuk

Respectfully submitted by  
Anna Loughlin

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

During the fall we have completed sixteen projects that we had arranged at a meeting back in August. Included are flat roof replacement (picture right), office door repairs and a cover for the boiler room stairwell. A complete list will appear in the annual report.

My thanks to Ken Poulsen, Peter Mara, Bill Powell and Doug Hitchcock for bringing all their skills to these repairs. A special thanks to Gord Bentley who found a carpenter to install the boiler room stairwell cover and the repairs to the Office Door (such that we did not have to replace it). Thank you to all who contributed to the roof repair fund. We have reached our goal.





## White Gift Sunday

**White Gift Service Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019** Presented by Our Sunday School (Always a Highlight of our Advent/Christmas Season!)

White Gift Sunday began in 1903 in Painesville, Ohio when a minister's wife, upset over her two daughter's arguing over gifts they had received in a Sunday School Gift exchange, came up with the idea. She remembered a story about a wise king who received gifts from his people that were wrapped in white so that all the gifts looked the same. By doing this, the love and devotion of the giver became more important than the gift. The following year, it was suggested that the Sunday School bring gifts, wrapped in white, that would be given to people in need in the community. The idea caught on and is still practiced in many churches today.

At our White Gift Service this year we are invited to contribute non-perishable food items to our own SUC Food Pantry and children's toys (esp. for ages 12-17) in support of the Salvation Army (Meadowvale) Christmas Drive. Boxes will be placed around the Christmas tree in the narthex for the collection of gifts. (No need to wrap them in white!)

### 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 to give 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.



### MN&P (Ministry, Nominating and Personnel)

We have **two openings** on the Church Board for 2020 — Property Committee Chair and Ministry and Personnel Committee Chair.

To find out more about these openings and what is involved, please speak to any member of the Board or Charlie Walsh, Gail Boulton, or Nicole Santos from the Ministry and Personnel Committee.

Are you looking for a fulfilling way to serve? Consider joining one of the many church committees - Outreach, Christian Education, Worship, Pastoral Care, Property and more. Many hands make light work.



### Outreach Update

#### Syrian Refugee Status

The Naddaf family settled into their apartment and elementary school well, although the father Nadeem recently lost his job and is very actively job hunting. From his previous position, he has good Canadian experience and references. We ask that you keep him and his family in your prayers during his job search.

The single man, Tarek, has moved to the same apartment building as the Naddafs and is sharing his two-bedroom apartment with another refugee. The arrangement is working well and has cut down his expenses. He is doing contract translation work, largely in the legal area. Please remember him in your prayers.

The support for our Syrian refugees is finally coming to a close. Barring any unforeseen events our constituent group—comprising the congregations of Streetsville United, Erin Mills United, Erindale United and Eden United--will be discontinuing our support as of December 31<sup>st</sup>. We will continue to oversee the funding of an additional Syrian family until June 2020, but will not be actively funding this family.

As many of you will have experienced when some of the refugees and their families attended our fall luncheon, they are extremely grateful for all the support that members of our church have given them. On behalf of the members of our church's Syrian support group, Keith Green, Leona Mutlak, Marney Elsey, Ali McMurter, and Jennifer Honsa, we also wish to thank everyone for their support over the past three years.

#### Coat Drive

Due to the success of our coat drive in February, we are planning to run another drive early next year so keep your warm, used coats for our next drive.

*Happy New Year 2020  
with the hope for many  
blessings in the year to  
come!*



# How to get ready For Christ(mas)!



## ✓ Help to Brighten Someone's Day

- \* Send a Gift with Vision in a loved one's name
- \* Give an unexpected compliment
- \* Tell someone what you love about them
- \* Surprise someone with a homemade treat
- \* Send a card or thank-you note to a friend

## ✓ Help to Care for Ourselves

- \* Have an instant dance party to your favourite song
- \* Make a list of the gifts you bring to your community
- \* List your hopes and goals
- \* What help might you need in reaching your goals? Ask a loved one!
- \* List 5 things that bring you joy

## ✓ Help to Care for the Earth

- \* Have dinner by candlelight
- \* Pick up litter in a local park
- \* Try to have a plastic-free day
- \* Have a buy-nothing day
- \* Have a garbage-free or garbage-reduced day

## ✓ Help to Care for Each Other

- \* Do a kind deed for someone else
- \* Offer to help a friend or family member to do a chore
- \* Make a handmade gift for a teacher or role model
- \* Share a meal or snack with someone
- \* Ask a Loved one how you can pray for them this week

## ✓ Help to Worship God

- \* Pray for yourself and the gifts you bring to your community
- \* Pray for the wisdom to find paths to peace
- \* Pray with those who are lonely and in need of a friend
- \* Pray with those who are looking for signs of hope and a new life



For more ideas visit  
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