

# Streetsville United Church Christmas Tidings 2022

*Glory*  
to the Newborn King

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## CALENDAR

**Sunday Services – in person and streaming – 10:00 am**

### Christmas Services

#### Advent Sundays

**1<sup>st</sup> Nov 27<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 4<sup>th</sup> White Gift Service**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 12<sup>th</sup> Senior Choir Christmas**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Boomer Band**

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

**4:00 pm Noisy Nativity!**  
**10:00 pm Communion Service**  
**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 10 am Christmas Service**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Mondays 7-8 pm Nov. 28 – Dec. 19 Devotional Gathering. 7:00 pm**

Join Rev. Joe and others – for more information see Christian Education.

### **Tue. Dec. 6 7:00 pm – UCW Christmas**

The United Church Women celebrating Christmas. For more information see UCW News.

**Sun. Dec 12** – Special Coffee Hour celebrating Choir and musical talents. Please attend! Cake and appreciation will be served.

### **Sat. Feb. 25, 2023 – 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.



## Minister's Message

Some of my most cherished Advent and Christmas memories are of cross-generational events. My parent would lead my siblings and me in family devotions around a hand-made Advent wreath. The church of my upbringing would have an annual Christmas party in which Santa Claus would show up after the potluck dinner. And shortly after Christmas Day, my immediate family would join our cousins from Pittsburgh at my grandparents' house for more food, gifts, and lots of board games.

I have other fond Advent/Christmas memories, too, but there is something about those experiences of multiple generations earnestly anticipating Jesus' nativity that warms my heart more than the others. This is part of the reason that I leapt at the opportunity to use resources from A Sanctified Art: the theme is "From Generation to Generation." The phrase comes from the Virgin Mary's song of praise in Luke chapter 2:

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on *all generations will call me blessed*;  
For the Mighty One has done great things for, and holy is his name" (Luke 2:47-49).

All generations get involved in declaring God's blessing through the young woman of Nazareth, and so our Advent and Christmas events should get people of all generations involved, too!

I am so excited to celebrate this season of expectation and joy. I am so excited for White Gift Sunday. I am so excited to sing with the choir. I am so excited to worship the new-born King Jesus away in a manger in little town of Bethlehem *on Christmas Eve!* And I am so excited to share all this with multiple generations that make up Streetsville United Church!

Thank you for this opportunity to lead you and serve you as we share the good news of Jesus Christ with the wider neighbourhood of Streetsville, the Greater Toronto Area, and around the world.

Peace,  
Joe



## Giving Envelopes

To conserve paper and cost, we will be using leftover giving envelopes. If you need giving envelopes, please go to the table in the narthex and help yourself to a box. The number and dates on the envelopes are not important. Feel free to use your own leftover envelopes from any year. Ensure your name is on any giving envelope to guarantee tax receipts are accurate.

★  
FOR  
UNTO US A  
CHILD  
IS BORN  
UNTO US A SON  
IS GIVEN  
ISAIAH  
9:6

## Pastoral Care

The food was delicious, the fellowship was warm and the sun shone on us in Heritage Hall. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, the Pastoral Care committee hosted a potluck luncheon and you can see the spread of food and care taken to encourage a safe and comfortable gathering. About 40 people attended including Reverend Joe Hopkins. Feedback received was positive and the committee hopes to plan another wonderful opportunity like this again. Thank you to all who participated. It was a joyous event.



## STREETSVILLE UNITED WOMEN (UCW) News

After a long absence, the Harvest of Crafts sale was held on Saturday, October 29 and was a huge success. None of it would have been possible without the many volunteers who helped out in the Country Kitchen and Church Crafts rooms and with the vendors in the auditorium. Thanks go out to all those who baked, sewed, cooked, made jams and jellies, and attended the event. The men's group joined in and served delicious hot dogs and hamburgers from MacGregor meats. Stay tuned for another great sale next year!

**All three of the UCW units will be meeting on December 6 at 7 pm.** The meeting will include worship and music in the sanctuary. The Notables will be playing Christmas music for all to enjoy as well. Delicious refreshments will be served in the Heritage Hall after the service. Everyone is invited to come along and sing the Christmas hymns and carols. It should be a memorable event. Donations to the Open door, The Elizabeth Fry Society and Pathway breakfast program would be appreciated.



UCW Crafts



UCW baking



Outdoor BBQ hosted by the Men



More Crafts

THE Wonder OF  
CHRISTMAS



## Finance Update

Recently you have received a special letter from the Finance Committee with a challenge and pledge request for 2023. We asked for your response to this challenge by November 27. If you have responded we thank you for your participation and response. If you have missed this deadline please still respond and return the pledge form ASAP. The more information we have, the more accurate we can make the budget for next year and moving forward. If you somehow missed receiving this special letter please contact Kelly in the office.



## Christian Education

**Sunday School** - Sunday School has begun again. The students and teachers are working together to prepare for their special White Gift Service. It will be held on Sunday December 4th, the second Sunday in Advent. We hope that you will be able to join us for a morning of music, readings and a variety of presentations. The information on what to give for gifts and where to bring them can be found in the weekly bulletin.

**Devotional Gatherings** - Reverend Joe is hosting Advent based gatherings in the Fellowship Lounge for those who are interested. They will take place on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:00 pm for four weeks from November 28<sup>th</sup> to December 19<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up in the Narthex if you plan to attend.

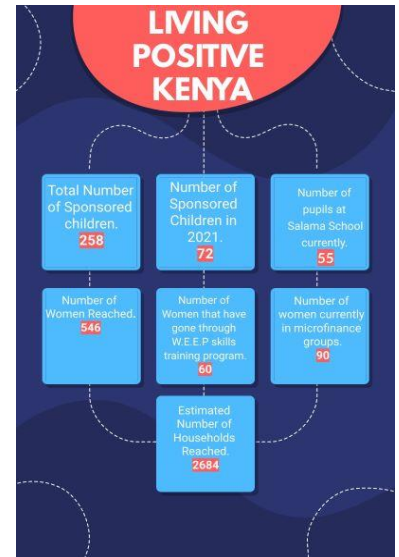
## Update of Outreach Activities

**Disbursements:** As of this fall, the Outreach Committee has approved the following disbursements on behalf of our congregation:

Pathway Community Programs - \$1000  
Ray Underhill Public School Nutrition Program - \$1000  
The Open Door - \$1000  
The DAM Youth Drop-in - \$1000  
Eden Food for Change - \$1000  
World Vision - \$2000  
Hope International - \$1000  
Living Positive Kenya - \$1000  
Canadian Ukraine Foundation - \$1000  
Canadian Red Cross for Pakistan Flood Relief - \$1000



Ray Underhill  
Public School



**Eden Food Bank:** Unfortunately Eden has discontinued our satellite food distribution site. Not enough people were making use of the site to justify keeping it at our church. We were pleased to have been able to help for over a year.

**Pathway:** The Pathway housing organization is in the process of adding 6 affordable units to the Arbour Mill apartment building. There will be 2 two-bedroom units and 4 one-bedroom units. The project is being financed by CMHC and one of the conditions is that the structure be modular and innovative. The building is being built with Cross-Laminate Timber panels. It is the first mass timber project to have received a building permit in the City of Mississauga. The units, which are to be aimed at seniors, are expected to be ready for occupancy in 2023.

**Thank you for your generous contributions to these programs.**



Left to right: Rev. Jeff Werner, Rev. Mary Jo Patterson, Rev. Joe Hopkins, Rev. Kathi Phillips, Rev John Ambrose



### The First Nativity Scene

In many places around the world, you might chance upon a nativity scene during Christmas, featuring a manger, many animals, and other characters. Credit has been given to St. Francis of Assisi as the first person to create such a scene back in a cave in 1223 AD. His manger had real hay, a live donkey, and a live ox.

Source: [smithsonianmag.com](http://smithsonianmag.com)

### Why We Use "Xmas"

Because they were being persecuted, early Christians used particular signs and symbols to recognize one another as believers and avoid detection. One sign used was the Greek letter "chi," symbolized by an "X," as it was the first letter of "Christ." Source: [grammarly.com](http://grammarly.com)

### Rays of Tinsel

Tinsel, which supposedly symbolizes the rays of the stars in the first Christmas, was once made from actual silver. Said ornament, however, easily turned ugly because of the smoke of the Christmas candles on the tree. Thus, silver was swapped for shiny alternatives, such as lead and tin until it evolved into the synthetic kind we have today. Source: [techtimes.com](http://techtimes.com)

### Colours of Christmas

The Christmas colours' exact origin is unclear, but many Christians think red was chosen to symbolize Jesus' blood that was sacrificed on the cross. As for green, it has always been associated with life. For Christians, it represents the eternal life of Christ that He offers to all who believe. Of course, the white Christmas colour came from the season snow.

Source: [wonderopolis.org](http://wonderopolis.org)

### Tree and the Wreath

In Germany, since it was important for the Christmas tree to be triangular in shape (as a representation of the Holy Trinity), much of the tree had to be pruned. But instead of discarding everything, the excess parts were woven into wreaths. Back then, the wreath was hung on the tree as an additional ornament; but today, many use it to decorate their front door.

Source: [time.com](http://time.com)

## Merry Christmas from MN&P! (Ministry, Nominating & Personnel)

Christmas is around the corner and then 2023! What a year! Perhaps you had a good year, or maybe it wasn't? Life's ups and downs can cause stress. Research shows that dedicating time and energy to others may help us deal with stress by getting us to focus on something other than our own troubles. How might giving of your time and talents to Streetsville United Church be good for you?

### 5 Ways Giving is Good for You\*

1. **Giving makes us feel happy.** A 2008 study by Harvard Business School professor Michael Norton and colleagues found that giving money to someone else lifted participants' happiness more than spending it on themselves.
2. **Giving is good for our health.** A wide range of research has linked different forms of generosity to better health, even among the sick and elderly.
3. **Giving promotes cooperation and social connection.** When you give, you're more likely to get back: Several studies, including work by sociologists Brent Simpson and Robb Willer, have suggested that when you give to others, your generosity is likely to be rewarded by others down the line—sometimes by the person you gave to, sometimes by someone else.
4. **Giving evokes gratitude.** Whether you're on the giving or receiving end of a gift, that gift can elicit feelings of gratitude—it can be a way of expressing gratitude or instilling gratitude in the recipient. And research has found that gratitude is integral to happiness, health, and social bonds.
5. **Giving is contagious.** When we give, we don't only help the immediate recipient of our gift. We also spur a ripple effect of generosity through our community.

Many hands make light work. If you would like to volunteer time or talents to the life and work of the church, please contact a member of the MN&P committee - Gail Boulton, Charlie Walsh, or Nicole Santos. MN&P welcomes all ideas and offers to the on-going work of the church.

\*Reference: [5 Ways Giving Is Good for You](#)

