

# Streetsville United Church Christmas Tidings 2023



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)



## CALENDAR

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



### Advent

**1<sup>st</sup> Nov 26<sup>th</sup>**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Holy Communion**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 10<sup>th</sup> White Gift Service**

**4<sup>th</sup> Dec 17<sup>th</sup> Senior Choir Christmas**

**Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Eve Celebrations**

**10:00 am Morning Service**

**8:00 pm Communion Service**

**Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> Service with guest speaker**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mon. Nov. 27 7-8 pm – Advent Devotional** in the Fellowship Lounge. For more information see Advent Devotional pg. 2.

**Sun. Dec. 3 Draw for Saucy gift card!**

At coffee hour following 2<sup>nd</sup> advent service. For details see Masonry Repair Campaign on pg. 3.

**Tue. Dec. 5 7:15 pm – UCW Christmas**

The United Church Women celebrating Christmas. For more information see News from UCW on pg. 5

**Sun. Dec 10 Annual White Gift** service – see last page for how you can support those in need this Christmas season.

**Sun. Dec 17 Annual Senior Choir Performance** - Special Coffee Hour celebrating Choir and musical talents. Please attend! Cake and appreciation will be served.

**Sat. Feb. 24, 2024 – 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

As we approach Christmas, what visions are you having? Many of the traditional Bible readings for the preparatory season of Advent include visions—like those of the prophet Isaiah, or Mother Mary's song of praise, or the prophecy of the old priest Zechariah. Perhaps you envision an evergreen tree strewn with lights set atop presents. Or maybe you imagine the sanctuary of Streetsville United Church decorated with garlands and wreaths, carols lifting the roof to new heights, and worshipers filling the pews. There are a lot of things that we envision for Christmastime.

However, we as a community need more than mere fleeting fantasies of the perfect Christmas. Proverbs 29:18 says, "where there is no vision, the people perish" (at least in the King James Version it says that). The point is that Streetsville United Church needs to refresh its vision and renew its values in this post-pandemic world. The leaders of SUC are working on the early stages of refreshing our vision and renewing our values, yet our efforts will be total vanity if the whole church doesn't work on this project with us. We need YOU to share in the work of refreshing our vision and renewing our values.

And I want you engage this "visioning" project as authentically as you can. Each of us are gloriously and tragically human, divinely crafted in God's own image and in serious need of salvation. Based on this need for human authenticity, we will celebrate the Advent and Christmas season with a series called "Becoming Fully Human." We will celebrate the miracle of God becoming human in Jesus Christ, and we will meet the challenge to live into God's purposes for humanity. We will still engage our beloved traditions, from lighting Advent candles to celebrating White Gift Sunday to the Christmas choir program, yet I encourage you open yourselves to God's vision for our church in a new age.

So come as you are. Invite friends, neighbours, and family members. Embrace God's call to be fully human as Jesus Christ is fully human. And join our congregation's effort in refreshing our vision and renewing our values. I believe that God intends to bless us with new growth in the new year—so let's get ready!

Peace,  
Joe

*May the  
Miracle of  
Christmas  
fill your heart  
with joy.*

## Advent Devotional



**LECTIO DIVINA**  
Reading the Scripture  
Reflecting on the Meaning  
Responding through Prayer  
Resting in God  
Responding in Action

*Lectio Meditatio Oratio Contemplatio Operatio*

Rev. Joe will have a small group Advent Devotional each **Monday evening, 7 - 8 pm beginning Nov. 27** in the Fellowship Lounge. He will use a "lectio divina" method to engage the Holy Spirit in Holy Scripture.

## Pathway Breakfast Club and Food Pantry Volunteers Needed!

Pathway Breakfast Club and Food Pantry are programs which SUC has been instrumental in organizing and supporting since the inception of Pathway Community Programs over 25 years ago. Three of our members presently sit on the Board along with representatives from Solel and the Unitarian Congregation.

*Do you have an hour or two a week to spare?*

### How Can I Help?

- Join the board! We meet once a month – mostly online – to plan and manage the Breakfast Club and Food Pantry.
- Attend a monthly virtual meeting with Food Banks Mississauga and then relay any important information back to the board.
- Receive and organize food deliveries from Food Banks Mississauga once a week at one of our two locations – 3420 The Collegeway or 3023 Parkerhill Rd.
- Place online orders for food from Food Banks Mississauga once a week – Training provided!
- Record attendance at the biweekly Food Pantry in the Link2Feed system once a month – Training provided!
- Sign up as a backup helper for the Breakfast Club at Forest Ridge (could be called once per month).

If you're interested in volunteering with Pathway Breakfast Club, or just want to learn more, please speak with one of our current board members:

Bev Mathew  
Randa Tadros  
Nicole Santos

## Streetsville United Church is a Charitable Organization

### What Exactly Does This Mean? How Might it Affect You?

You may be surprised at this question as you probably are well aware that our church is a charitable organization. There are different benefits that come with this status, the most obvious being that we do not pay income tax to the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) or property taxes to the City of Mississauga and under certain circumstances we are able to give donors an income tax receipt for monetary donations made to the church.



There are also responsibilities that we must meet in order to maintain this important status and this you may not know. As a charitable organization and to receive these benefits there cannot be any advantages given to any members, directors, or trustees of our church. This means that all members of our Community of Faith must be treated the same as any non-member requesting a service from our church. This service might be a request to rent a facility, host a Wedding Celebration or hold a Funeral Service or Celebration of Life. Everyone must be treated the same, members and non-members, in order to maintain our charitable status.

This may seem strange or even bizarre to you, especially if you are a longtime member who has supported SUC for many years, however times have changed. Committees of our church have written Policies that apply for Weddings and Funerals that meet the CRA requirements and address the Faith expectations of our church. These Policies are posted on our church website. Please share them with your family if a Wedding or Funeral may be a service requested of SUC. The Wedding and Funeral Policies can be found on the church website under the Home tab at <https://www.streetsvilleunited.ca/weddings-and-funerals/>

Rental of church facilities must also have the same rates for members and non-members. There may be consideration of different pricing for non-profit groups vs profit groups. The church office may be contacted for details.

We hope this information is helpful in understanding our church policies and we appreciate your support in sharing this information. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the church office and a member of church council will be happy to follow up on your query.



### Giving to other Charitable Organizations

In the past month, we have received several donations from members of the congregation, requesting that the donated funds be forwarded to another charitable organization. We accepted these requests, on a one-time, basis since these charities are ones that SUC supports. You may not be aware that technically we cannot issue tax receipts for funds provided to SUC, which are not for our own use. In addition, we incur extra costs for issuing cheques and postage. Please be aware that in future, requests such as this will not be accepted. If you wish to directly support charities, supported by SUC (eg. The Open Door, Eden Food for Change, etc.), we encourage you to send donations directly to the appropriate organization, who will issue you a tax receipt. Thank you for your understanding.

The Finance Committee

## Masonry Repair Campaign - Update

The SUC Masonry Repair and Finance campaign are now underway. The first part of the work has been completed – the chimney was repaired when the chimney swifts were known to have migrated.

The second part of the repair, the brick masonry work on the building, has been postponed until spring. This will allow us to apply to Heritage Mississauga for funding for the work. If our application is successful, we could receive up to 50% of the value of the project. Our application could also be rejected, and we may receive nothing. We will apply in February and learn the result later in the spring.

Our financial campaign will proceed as outlined in the Fall Tidings. The estimated cost of this repair project is \$42,000 + HST. The Bequest Fund may provide 75% of the required amount with 25% raised from the congregation, approximately \$10,500. Profits from the Macgregor Meat fundraiser and the Coffee House will support the project. Donations by cash, cheque or e-transfer will be matched by the UCW up to a maximum of \$5,000. Donations should mention Masonry work in the memo line. Names of the donors contributing by November 30 will be entered into a draw for a \$150 gift card for Saucy's Restaurant in town. The draw will be made at Coffee Hour on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. These donations will qualify for tax receipts.

### November is Stewardship month - please give generously as you are able!

The Masonry work must be completed whether or not we receive Heritage Mississauga funding. Should we be fortunate enough to have surplus money next spring, if we receive the special funding, any excess will be returned to our Reserve account – our beautiful Heritage building will always have a new repair surprise needing our attention!

Many thanks for your support.

SUC Finance Committee



## FINANCE – November 2023

The good news is that we are faring better than expected!

The month of October basically broke even (-\$225) and YTD is a surplus of \$1,469 vs budgeted deficit of \$29,142. By year end we expect we will be in a deficit position but not to the extent that was budgeted (-\$34,970).

Rental income remains strong and continues to carry us. Expenses are well controlled.

Please continue to give as you are able.

November is Stewardship month and the focus this year is on the Masonry Repair Campaign. It is now well underway as outlined in the last Tidings. The Macgregor Meat fundraiser resulted in a profit for us of \$1260.00 – many thanks to all who purchased these quality products. The Coffee House on November 18 raised **\$1,300!** An evening of fun entertainment and delicious desserts were enjoyed by all. **See pictures last page!**

Donations made by cash, cheque or e-transfer by November 30 will be matched by the UCW to a maximum of \$5,000.00. Names of the donors will be entered into a draw on December 3 for a gift certificate of \$150.00 for Saucy's Restaurant in town.

Your support of this campaign to maintain our heritage building is greatly appreciated!



## Streetsville United Church - Income Statement YTD October 2023 vs YTD October 2022 and Budget

	Actual YTD October			10-month Linear Budget		Annual 2023 Budget
	2023	2022	Variance	YTD	Variance	
<b>REVENUE</b>						
Envelope Offerings - General, Initial, Special	\$ 124,776	\$ 120,463	\$ 4,314	\$ 133,750	\$ (8,974)	\$ 160,500
Loose Offering, Canada Helps, UCC Foundation	\$ 11,050	\$ 12,428	\$ (1,379)	\$ 11,333	\$ (284)	\$ 13,600
United Church Women	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,000	\$ 300	\$ 4,167	\$ 1,133	\$ 5,000
Facilities Rental - Total	\$ 70,211	\$ 64,905	\$ 5,307	\$ 52,750	\$ 17,461	\$ 63,300
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 11,923	\$ 11,809	\$ 113	\$ 8,750	\$ 3,173	\$ 10,500
<b>Total Operating Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 223,260</b>	<b>\$ 214,605</b>	<b>\$ 8,655</b>	<b>\$ 210,750</b>	<b>\$ 12,510</b>	<b>\$ 252,900</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSE</b>						
Personnel	\$ 135,959	\$ 96,569	\$ 39,390	\$ 142,252	\$ (6,292)	\$ 170,702
Operating Church Home	\$ 63,485	\$ 63,575	\$ (90)	\$ 69,983	\$ (6,499)	\$ 83,980
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 22,347	\$ 22,359	\$ (12)	\$ 27,657	\$ (5,309)	\$ 33,188
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 221,791</b>	<b>\$ 182,503</b>	<b>\$ 39,288</b>	<b>\$ 239,892</b>	<b>\$ (18,101)</b>	<b>\$ 287,870</b>
<b>NET INCOME - SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 1,469</b>	<b>\$ 32,102</b>	<b>\$ (30,633)</b>	<b>\$ (29,142)</b>	<b>\$ 30,610</b>	<b>\$ (34,970)</b>
<b>OUTREACH / BENEVOLENT FUND</b>						
Outreach/Benevolent Receipts	\$ 18,943	\$ 20,010	\$ (1,066)	\$ 19,833	\$ (890)	\$ 23,800
Outreach/Benevolent Disbursements	\$ 24,505	\$ 27,121	\$ (2,617)	\$ 19,833	\$ 4,671	\$ 23,800



### Iceland

Yule Book Flood – this celebration occurs with a book exchange on Christmas Eve. The evening is traditionally spent reading their new books!

Source: <https://jolabokaflod.org/>

### Columbia

Day of the Little Candles – on the eve of Dec. 8, Columbians honour the virgin Mary by lighting candles and paper lanterns throughout homes, streets, balconies, and public parks.

Source: <https://www.cartagenaexplorer.com/>

### Ireland

People of Ireland put a tall, thick candle on the sill of the largest window after sunset on Christmas Eve. It is left to burn all night symbolizing a welcoming light for Mary and Joseph.

Source: <https://thewildgeese.irish/>

### Mexico

At midnight on Christmas Eve families are called by a ringing of bells to the service called “Mass of the Rooster”. Tradition teaches that the only time a rooster crowed at midnight was on the day that Jesus was born.

Source: <https://www.ctspanish.com/christmas>



### Giving Envelopes

To conserve paper and cost, we will continue 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.

## Intercultural October Potluck!

In keeping with our Intercultural October theme, foods from around the world, fellowship and fun were enjoyed at our Fall Potluck luncheon after the worship service on Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>. Cultural heritages that were represented included food items from the Caribbean, Denmark, Korea, Ireland, Scotland, England, as well as specialties from the Coptic and Mennonite Christian culture. 48 of us attended, and we are planning **another Potluck Luncheon for Jan. 28, 2024**. More details to come - hope you'll attend!



## Communications from Council

The fall period has been very busy for all Council Members. All committees meet regularly to plan and activate activities...

- A vision committee has been struck, which will involve all members of our church; communication protocols are being planned.
- Randa Tadros is assisting council to measure our metrics (our reach) with Facebook and is currently monitoring Instagram; both of which will help us reach out to these mediums the necessary communications for our church
- Council is preparing their response for the remit involving the Indigenous Church.
- Council has worked closely with Property planning the necessary repairs on our chimney and the brick work on the historical side of the building.

Council continues to work with our Finance Team on a monthly basis, monitoring expenses and revenues. Council will also be working the Finance Committee for the 2024 budget.

On behalf of all Council Members, we wish one and all a safe Holiday Season. Peace to all at this wonderful time of the year.

**Neil Beattie, Church Council Chair**



Invite Your Friends &  
Family to Our

## UCW Christmas Service

Featuring

## McDougall Fiddlers For a Celtic Christmas

Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>  
7:15 pm  
Streetsville United  
Church

Refreshments following in  
Heritage Hall

A free-will offering to the  
UCW appreciated



## NEWS FROM THE UCW – Harvest of Crafts Sale and More!

The UCW extends our sincere thanks to the congregation, community, and our members for their continued support of this event. This sale is a yearlong effort as the crafters work to create items to sell, and the jammers and preservers take advantage of produce in season to make into the many types of jams, jellies, and pickles that you enjoy. It then takes many people to help coordinate the vendors, advertise, set up, decorate and staff the areas on sale day. We also welcomed the Men's group who provided a rest stop with coffee and muffins, appreciated by shoppers and staff. The quilt donated by Elaine McDonald was won by local resident Joanne Costello. Thanks to all for the time and effort contributing to another successful day!

The result of this year's sale was a profit of \$7700.00! These funds are now available to support our church, our community, and missions in Canada and worldwide. Many will benefit from your support on October 28. Thank you!

The UCW is always supportive of projects within our church and the current Masonry Repair Campaign is no exception. As this project is important in maintaining the integrity of our heritage building, we are pleased to be able to match any cash donations to a maximum of \$5000. The names of donors who contribute by November 30 will be entered into a draw for a gift certificate of \$150.00 for Saucy's Restaurant in town, courtesy of the UCW.

As this Tidings goes to press, we are also providing refreshments for the Coffee House on November 18. We look forward to an entertaining evening of music and delicious homemade desserts!

We have also been honoured to provide receptions for the families of 2 of our long-term members, Gordon Bentley and Trudy Brennenstuhl following Memorial/Funeral services. The reception gives support and an opportunity for reflection and fellowship in their time of loss.

Our annual Christmas service is back again this year on **Tuesday December 5 – please see left for details**. Join us for a wonderful evening celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.

We are extremely fortunate to have about 50 women involved in our 3 UCW units. As we meet together for faith, fun and fellowship, we thank God for our many blessings, our church family and the love and support of each other. **New members are always welcome!**





### Christmas Donations

After the success of many years of Christmas donations from our congregation to various local organizations, we are looking forward to contributing again this year. The following information is about the specific organizations, what they would appreciate receiving, and how you can help if you wish.

- 1. The Elizabeth Fry Society** - They would appreciate receiving gifts for their women and girls who are working on reintegrating into society. They accommodate 10 youth females and 15 adult women in their residential programs. They would prefer gift cards and small hygiene items, as their program has high turnover, and it is easier for the women and girls to access outside stores once they leave their program. They look for Walmart, Shoppers Drug Mart and Dollar Store gift cards.
- 2. The Salvation Army** - The Salvation Army has been an organization that our Sunday School has contributed to for many years. They would appreciate receiving gift cards from Claire's, Shoppers Drug Mart, and Dollar Stores. They would be happy to receive gift cards for food stores. They are accepting new toys and games as well. With each gift basket given out to their clients, an age-appropriate hat and mittens are included. These items, whether store bought, or hand knit, would be much appreciated, especially for older youth.
- 3. The Open Door** - For years, our congregation has been supporting The Open Door with gifts, clothing and meals for their clients. This year they are looking for gift cards and toiletry items. They always appreciate small gift bags with these items. They would appreciate gift cards for grocery stores, various coffee shops, as well as Walmart. This would give the families an opportunity to have their Christmas meal in their own homes.
- 4. Pathway Housing** - Gift cards for teens would be appreciated.
- 5. Eden Food for Change** - This is an opportunity to continue to donate non-perishable items. The box is located in the Narthex.

**How you can help!**

- a) If you have gift cards and are attending in-person services, you can place them in an envelope with the organization's name on the front and put it in the collection box at the back of the Sanctuary.
- b) If you have food, games, or toys, there will be baskets in the Narthex. Please place the unwrapped gifts with a label for the organization for which they are intended. If you need to drop these items off at the church during the week when Kelly is in the office, please ring the bell outside the office door and she can take your donations.
- c) Gift cards in an envelope may also be placed in one of the two secure mailboxes at the church.

If you would prefer to donate cash, it can be placed in the mailboxes and collection box with the gift cards and will be shared amongst the organizations.

The **last day that donations will be accepted is Tuesday December 12th**. If you have any questions or need assistance with your donations, please call Cathy Hitchcock at 905-564-0139.

Thank you in advance for your assistance once again this year.