

# Streetsville United Church Christmas Tidings 2024



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## CALENDAR

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



## ADVENT

**1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 8<sup>th</sup> White Gift Service**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Senior Choir Christmas**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Dec 22<sup>th</sup> Family Christmas**  
**Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Celebration**  
**7:00 pm Communion Service**  
**Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> Service with guest minister**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tue. Dec. 3 7:15 pm – UCW Christmas**  
The United Church Women celebrating Christmas. For more information see News from UCW on pg. 2

**Sun. Dec 8 Annual White Gift service** – see page 4 for how you can support those in need this Christmas season.

**Sun. Dec 15 Annual Senior Choir Performance** - Special Coffee Hour celebrating Choir and musical talents. Please attend! Cake and appreciation will be served.

**Sun. Dec 22 Caroling in Streetsville Square!** – See page 4.



**Grieving this Christmas Season?**  
See page 4

## Minister's Message

Have you ever thought about how important cloth is for the Nativity story and for North American Christmas celebrations? According to Luke 2 Mother Mary wrapped the newborn Jesus in bands of cloth before laying him in a manger, and the shepherds who were visited by herald angels were told to look for a baby wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in manger. Maybe those shepherds would have recognized Jesus by his unusual first crib, but the angel specifically mentioned the cloth.

Of course, in the northern hemisphere Christmas falls at the beginning of winter, so especially those of us in higher latitudes wrap ourselves in extra cloth. Sweaters, coats, toques, scarves, and mittens all come out of closets in the weeks leading up to Christmas. And then we keep them nearby for the next few months.

During this Advent and Christmas season we will use some prayers and activities from the book, Cloth for the Cradle, which comes from the ecumenical Iona Community of Scotland. Not all the prayers feature cloth, but the primary, interactive activity does, and we will engage this "Cloth for the Cradle" activity on the fourth Sunday of Advent. I love this idea of sanctifying ordinary things like cloth during a sacred season. So, I also challenge you to wear some extra cloth during the Sundays of Advent:

**Dec. 1 is "Toque Sunday"**

**Dec. 8 is "Mitten Sunday"**

**Dec. 15 is "Scarf Sunday"**

**Dec. 22 is "Sweater Sunday"** (ugly Christmas sweaters encouraged!)

I also have learned over the past couple years that many newcomers to Mississauga come from much warmer climates than Southern Ontario and are unprepared for the harsh winter weather. Therefore, I challenge you to bring an extra toque, pair of mittens, scarf, or sweater for each of the corresponding Sundays, which we will then give to the Open Door ministry of Square One.

All of this is in addition to our beloved Advent and Christmas traditions, such as the White Gift service, choir program, and Christmas Eve service, among others. So don't worry about missing out!

I do hope and pray that as we approach this sacred season you will experience the miracle of the incarnation—God becoming flesh—afresh this year.

Peace,  
Joe





Invite Your Friends &  
Family to Our  
**UCW Christmas Service**

Featuring  
**McDougall Fiddlers**  
For a Celtic Christmas

**Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**7:15 pm**  
Streetsville United Church

Refreshments following in  
Heritage Hall

A free-will offering to the  
UCW appreciated



**Harvest of Crafts Sale**  
preserves and baked goods  
ready for shoppers!



**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, staff the areas on sale day and then count the money into the late evening. We welcomed back the Men's group who provided a comfortable place to relax with coffee and muffins, greatly appreciated by shoppers and staff. The quilt donated by the Wednesday afternoon quilt group, to which a number of our church members belong, was won by our own Karen Monk – congratulations! We also welcomed Willowtree Montessori School this year as they worked to fundraise to contribute to improve the courtyard area of our church. They created a very spooky walk for young Halloween monsters and served special treats. Many thanks to all for the time and effort contributing to another successful day!

The result of this year's sale was a **profit of \$8200.00!** These funds are now available to support our church, our community and missions in Canada and worldwide. Many individuals will benefit from your support on October 26. Thank you!

Our annual Christmas service is back again this year on **Tuesday December 3** – please see left for details and join us for a wonderful evening celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. The McDougall Fiddlers are returning by popular demand so don't miss this fun filled evening of Celtic entertainment. All are welcome!

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!**



Karen Monk – lucky winner of the quilt!



Sandra of Willowtree Montessori



Jean Stopa helping a customer



Auditorium busy with vendors!



## Ministry & Personnel NEWS

The late Fall and early Winter is a busy time and that is especially so for all of us at Streetsville United as we re-engage after busy summers and resume the work of our committees. M&P has many responsibilities which come to fruition at this time of year. Perhaps the best known is the responsibility to nominate members or adherents to positions on Church Council. These nominations are then presented to the congregation at the February AGM for approval and formal election. Assuming a role of leadership on Church Council is a shared privilege, one where the responsibilities of worship, administration and finance, Christian education and outreach of the congregation into the community is thoughtfully pursued.

M&P is very open to inquiries by members or adherents who seek information on committee responsibilities. Many opportunities exist for creative input and support on all committees of Streetsville United. We are also open to continuing to facilitate opportunities that support the leadership team.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and continued blessings in 2025!

Gail Boulton, Charlie Walsh  
and Teresa Judd



## FRESH START

Over the last two years SUC has chosen to participate in the Fresh Start program developed by the United Church of Canada to ease the transition of a new minister into the Community of Faith. Under the guidance of the facilitator, Rev Kathi Philips of Erin Mills UC, we have had many valuable sessions which have stimulated discussion, increased dialogue, encouraged feedback, and have helped to guide the Vision and Mission team.

We are now concluding this program and invite you to attend the last session on **SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 9:30am in Heritage Hall** – Power, Authority and Influence – Rev Kathi recommends this as a good conclusion - it has a positive message about building trust as foundational for our relationships.

We look forward to your participation as we conclude this insightful program and practice what we have learned!



## Outreach Report



### Outreach Donations

During the last week of October, the Committee met online to allocate the funds that are available to Outreach. It was decided that the funds would be allocated to the nine organizations listed below. Cheques were distributed to these organizations. Thank you to the members of the committee for their participation in this endeavour. Total distributed **\$12000.00**

- Canadian Food Grains Bank - \$1425.00
- Canadian Red Cross - \$1425.00
- Doctors Without Borders - \$1425.00
- Eden Food for Change - \$1425.00
- Hope International - \$1425.00
- Indwell - \$600.00
- Open Door - \$1425.00
- Pathway Children's Programs - \$1425.00
- Roots Community Services - \$1425.00



### Christmas in the Village

Members of our church will be participating in this event. It will be a collaboration between the Outreach Committee, the UCW and other Congregation members on **Saturday November 23rd from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm**. The UCW members are putting together 300 mini candy canes with a poem attached. The poem will explain the meaning and significance of the candy cane and will be given away to those who visit our table.

Thank you to Ruth Kochanuk and Bev Mathew for their initial work on this project. Thank you also to Sandy Jutzen in her role as co-chair of Outreach. She has worked diligently with the Streetsville BIA to work out the many details needed for this event.

Cathy Hitchcock and Sandy Jutzen

Co-Chairs Outreach Committee

### Food + Fellowship = a winning combination!

Another successful time of fellowship (and delicious food!) was enjoyed by all who attended the annual Fall Potluck Luncheon on Sunday October 20, hosted by the Pastoral Care committee. Lots of us shared a meal and socialized in Heritage Hall...and it was a great way to strengthen our bonds of Christian connection and celebrate our church family! Thank you to everyone who helped with this event.



## White Gift Sunday December 8, 2024



The White Gift Service honours the joy of giving during the Christmas season and is an annual tradition of Streetsville United Church presented by the young people and Sunday School children. The gifts were traditionally wrapped in white paper to celebrate the act of giving rather than the value of the gift so that all might participate no matter their age, ability, or financial resources. All White Gift donations support our church outreach projects.

## Christmas Caroling in Streetsville Square

**Sunday, Dec. 22 at 7 pm**

folks from Streetsville United Church will gather at Streetsville Square to share in the joy of the season's songs! Songs will be from both church and secular traditions, and some warm beverages will be provided. All are welcome to make a joyful noise in the Square!



## 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.

## Sat. Feb. 22, 2025 - Annual Coldest Night of the Year Walk

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

## Grieving during the Christmas Season

While Christmas is all jolly and merry to many people, some folks experience enhanced grief during the holiday season. Multiple churches in Mississauga will hold Christmas-themed worship services for grieving people this season, including:

- Erindale United Church on **Dec. 12**
- Christ First United Church on **Dec. 21**
- Eden United Church on **Dec. 22**

If you are interested in this kind of worship service, ask Rev. Joe for more information or directly contact the churches listed above.

## 'Noon at Met' featuring Michelle Chung, Director of Music at SUC

Our very talented Director of Music, **Michelle Chung**, performed in an organ recital on Thursday October 24<sup>th</sup> at Metropolitan United Church in Toronto, as part of the 'Noon at Met' Recital Series. For nearly an hour Michelle showcased her musical talents on the largest pipe organ in Canada, and it was spellbinding! You will want to watch all or some of Michelle's recorded performance. A highlight was a piece featuring seven variations of 'Amazing Grace', one using foot pedals only, no hands!

Watch the entire YouTube recording at the SUC YouTube channel under Posts; find 'Variations sur Amazing Grace' beginning at minute 40 until minute 50 of the performance:

Well done, Michelle. We are thankful that you share your God-given musical talents with us at Streetsville United!



Above: a photo of Michelle playing the organ at Metropolitan United Church, and some of the SUC friends in attendance





## Tidings – Christmas 2024 – Finance Report



October YTD financial numbers are \$18,886 better than our ten-month linear budget but worse by \$7,900 than the previous year's YTD. While particularly good compared to our budget it is worse compared to last year. This has been anticipated. Facility Rentals are both better than last year and our ten-month linear budget. Envelope Offerings are (\$7,580) below our ten-month linear budget but are up 3% over last year. Our YTD deficit is (\$5,931) an improvement over last month. Expenses are well controlled and are favourable to budget for ten months by \$18,886. However, there are two outstanding invoices which would increase the deficit significantly, the largest is the bill for changing the valves on the boiler heating system and is expected before year end.

Please support SUC as you are able even if you are not in church attendance. Donations can be made by PAR, E-transfer, Canada Helps and postdated cheques.

**Reminder if you have not reviewed your PAR or automated giving's in over a year to kindly review and if you are able to increase it, please reach out to Bev Mathew.** There has been a significant drop in PAR giving's during 2024 and it is important that we do everything we can to increase envelope offerings.

**Macgregor Meat fundraiser** sold 121 boxes **raising \$1,304** which will be included in November results. Thank you everyone for your support in the meat fundraiser.

### Streetsville United Church - Income Statement YTD October 2024 vs YTD October 2023 and Budget

	Actual YTD October				10-month Linear Budget		YTD Actual as % Annual Budget	Annual 2024 Budget
	2024	2023	Variance		YTD	Variance		
			\$	%				
<b>REVENUE</b>								
Envelope Offerings - General, Initial, Special	\$ 128,670	\$ 124,776	\$ 3,894	3%	\$ 136,250	\$ (7,580)	79%	\$ 163,500
Loose Offering, Canada Helps, UCC Foundation	\$ 8,308	\$ 11,050	\$ (2,742)	-25%	\$ 11,250	\$ (2,942)	62%	\$ 13,500
United Church Women	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,300	\$ (300)		\$ 4,167	\$ 833	100%	\$ 5,000
Facilities Rental - Total	\$ 72,904	\$ 70,211	\$ 2,693	4%	\$ 67,558	\$ 5,346	90%	\$ 81,070
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 14,844	\$ 11,923	\$ 2,921	25%	\$ 10,500	\$ 4,344	118%	\$ 12,600
<b>Total Operating Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 229,726</b>	<b>\$ 223,260</b>	<b>\$ 6,466</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>\$ 229,725</b>	<b>\$ 1</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>\$ 275,670</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSE</b>								
Personnel	\$ 147,603	\$ 135,959	\$ 11,643	9%	\$ 152,608	\$ (5,005)	81%	\$ 183,129
Operating Church Home	\$ 63,114	\$ 63,485	\$ (371)	-1%	\$ 73,546	\$ (10,432)	72%	\$ 88,255
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 24,941	\$ 22,347	\$ 2,593	12%	\$ 28,388	\$ (3,448)	73%	\$ 34,066
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 235,657</b>	<b>\$ 221,791</b>	<b>\$ 13,866</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>\$ 254,542</b>	<b>\$ (18,885)</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>\$ 305,450</b>
<b>NET INCOME - SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (5,931)</b>	<b>\$ 1,969</b>	<b>\$ (7,900)</b>		<b>\$ (24,817)</b>	<b>\$ 18,886</b>		<b>\$ (29,780)</b>
<b>OUTREACH / BENEVOLENT FUND</b>								
Outreach/Benevolent Receipts	\$ 19,528	\$ 18,943	\$ 585		\$ 18,750	\$ 778	87%	\$ 22,500
Outreach/Benevolent Disbursements	\$ 13,218	\$ 24,005	\$ (10,786)		\$ 18,750	\$ (5,532)	59%	\$ 22,500

