

Streetsville United Church

Christmas Tidings 2025



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CALENDAR

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



ADVENT

Nov. 30 @ 10am – Communion
Dec. 2 @ 7pm – UCW Christmas Service -
Music by THE NOTEABLES
Dec. 7 @ 10am – White Gift Service
Dec. 14 @ 10am – Rocking Advent with the
Boomer Band
Dec. 21 @ 10am - Choir Service
Dec. 24 @ 7pm – Christmas Eve

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday December 5

Singing with other choirs at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

295 Queen Street South – 7:30pm

Sunday January 25

***Pastoral Care will be holding a Potluck Luncheon after church.
Everyone is welcome.***

Saturday February 28

Coldest Night of the Year

Fundraiser for The Dam

Saturday April 25

SUC Annual Garage Sale

"Merry Christmastime! And anxious Advent. I often observe a tension among Christians this time of year. On one side is the sincere desire to experience and express the hope, peace, joy, and love that churches in North America celebrate (along with the Hallmark Channel happiness that commercial businesses market to us). On the other side is the anxiety that we will fail to experience these positive things, due to physical frailty, complex relationship dynamics, or mental health struggles. After all, seasonal affect disorder is real, no matter how much artificial light we shine during the long nights before and after the winter solstice. How do we resolve this tension? Is it even possible?

I especially appreciate the season of Advent because it is unapologetically Christian and brutally honest. Believe or not, one of the traditional and ancient themes of Advent in the church is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. What produces more anxiety than reflecting on the End Times?

I don't plan on emphasizing the Second Coming of Jesus during this year's Advent season, yet we do need to acknowledge and process our seasonal anxiety and maybe depression. Our church has MANY activities planned to prepare for and celebrate Christmas this year. If those activities and events help you to experience hope, peace, joy, and love, please join us! If the mere thought of some of those activities triggers dread in you, then you have my pastoral permission to sit those ones out.

Jesus teaches that "I came that [people] may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10b). May the events, activities, and themes of the Advent and Christmas season this year fulfill Jesus' mission in the world and our lives. May it be so!"

Thanks for all your faithful work!

Peace,

Joe



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Invite Your Friends & Family to Our UCW Christmas Service

Featuring
The Notables

Tuesday, December
2nd

7:15 pm

Streetsville United
Church

Refreshments
following in the
Heritage Hall

A free-will offering
to the UCW

Is appreciated.



NEWS FROM THE UCW

The UCW extends our sincere thanks to the congregation, community and our members for their continued support of the Harvest of Crafts sale. 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 we enjoy. We welcomed back the Men's group, who provided a comfortable place to relax with coffee and muffins and for the first time, sandwiches. This was greatly appreciated by shoppers and staff. Willowtree Montessori School also returned this year as they worked to fundraise for our church. They created a spooky walk for children and adults and served popcorn and hot chocolate. Thanks once again for contributing to another successful day.

The result of this year's sale was a profit of \$7200.00!! These funds are now available to support our church, our community and missions in Canada and worldwide. Many people will benefit from your kind support on October 25.

Our annual Christmas service is back again this year on Tuesday, December 2nd. Please join us for a wonderful event. Please read on left for further details. The Noteables will be joining us this year to celebrate the festive season. Don't miss their wonderful presentation of music in song.

The Coffee House returned this year with the Boomers as the special entertainment. UCW units provided desserts and coffee. It was a fun evening filled with nostalgia as we heard many songs that were popular with the members of the congregation. Some photos are provided.

All of our units contributed to providing Christmas bags for the residents of Cornerstone. Many lovely scarves were knitted and candy was also included. Sunshine Circle bagged up the items at their meeting. Please see the beautiful bags in the photo section.

We are thankful to have many members in the 3 UCW units. Many hands make light work. We meet once a month for faith and fellowship. We support one another, and our blessings abound.

New members are always welcome!



Harvest of Crafts Sale



Items were put in bags, and then finished the bags for Cornerstone

WORSHIP

We are blessed within our Community of Faith to gather together in person or online to deepen our discipleship as Christians. On November 16, 2025, the blessed sacrament of Baptism was administered for Archer Faulkner. As a congregation, we committed to support and nurture him within a community that worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice and resists evil. Welcome to the church family! During this service, Reverend Hopkins engaged our Sunday school students in an exercise to understand the significance of this Holy sacrament, an inspiration for all generations.

Isaiah 9:6-7: Foretells the birth of a son who will be called "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace," with his government being everlasting.

The Season of Advent is a "hopeful" time of year, and we pray that you will be able to attend many, if not all, of the special services planned for this season at Streetsville United Church, commencing at 10:00 a.m., unless otherwise indicated.

Sunday, November 30th - Lighting of the First Candle of HOPE and Holy Communion

Tuesday, December 2nd - United Church Women Christmas Concert (7:15 p.m.) featuring the "Noteables."

Friday, December 5th Choir event at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (7:30 p.m.) all welcome!

Sunday December 7th - Lighting of the Second Candle for PEACE. This special service is led by our precious Sunday School children, youth and their teachers

Sunday December 14th - Lighting of the Third Candle for JOY and a Rock'n service featuring the invigorating Boomer Band

Sunday December 21st - Lighting of the Fourth Candle for LOVE showcasing our amazing choir

Culminating in our Christmas Eve and Communion Service on **Wednesday**

December 24th commencing at 7:00 p.m.

God bless.



OUTREACH SUPPORT

- 1) The Outreach Committee will be making donations to the following organizations. Each Organization will receive \$1300.00
 - a) Fred Victor Mission is in downtown Toronto, which is a non-profit, multi-sector, social service agency.
 - b) Roots Community Services in Brampton, which offers culturally relevant programs and services to inspire residents from Black and Caribbean communities, covering youth to Seniors.
- 2) The Coldest Night of the Year- One of our congregation members has expressed an interest in being the leader of the Streetsville United Church participants. They have reached out to past leader Murray Lewis to get a clearer idea of what is expected and are also hopeful that someone may come forward to assist them. More information will be coming as soon as a decision has been made.
- 3) Christmas Donations- The information, as in past years, has been shared with the congregation. It highlights each organization and what they need to make this Christmas a wonderful one for their clients. The notice will be in the weekly bulletin until Sunday December 7th. The gifts will then be delivered later in that week.
- 4) On Friday November 21st in the evening, the Streetsville United Church choir sang carols and Christmas songs at the lighting of the Christmas Tree in Streetsville square. It was a wonderful evening with participation from the community members who attended the event. A great way to begin the Christmas Season.
- 5) With the help of Doug and Cathy Hitchcock from the congregation and several community members, an event was held at the church on Saturday November 22nd. This event was held to coincide with the "Christmas in the Village" event put on by the Streetsville BIA. The activities are listed on the poster below.

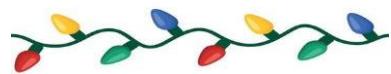


HOT COCOA | STORY TIME WITH MRS. CLAUS | CAROLING
9:00AM - 10:00AM & 10:00AM - 11:00AM
SPACE IS LIMITED | FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

Free Event!
Please bring a non perishable item to support Eden Food for Change



Cathy Hitchcock and Sandy Jutzen



Our Choir was invited to sing and lead Christmas carols for the Christmas Tree lighting events on Friday, November 21st in Streetsville.

It was successfully done under the leadership of the Music Director, Michelle Chung, Rev. Joe and Sandy Jutzen. Also, many of our Congregation members were there to support us. A special thank you to John Sparrow for working with BIA's tech team and communicating with them. Also, to Randa Tadros for creating a QR code for the lyrics of all carols.

It was beautiful work of everyone in our church. God used our church to glorify God in a public place. There were many who joined in to sing with us, enjoying and celebrating, Christmas. We could share our faith with people who don't know Jesus Christ. We ended singing with "Silent Night". Many people got emotional singing this Holy Christmas song in preparation for Holy Christmas.

We are looking forward to singing Christmas carols at the public place next year again.

Michelle Chung



MUSIC AT SUC

On Wednesday, November 5th, our Director of Music, Michelle Chung, performed an organ recital at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto. She played several selections on the organ, which has four manuals and a full pedal board. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear and appreciate her musical talent, and several people from Streetsville United were able to attend. Thank you, Michelle!



Above: a photo of Michelle sitting at the organ at the Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, and some of the SUC friends in attendance.

Choir Christmas Program is coming soon.

On Sunday, December 21st, our Choir is having a Christmas Music Service.

This year, our Music Director, Michelle Chung, invited the Hand Bell Choir from Christ First United Church to join our choir. There will be lots of Christmas spirit at this joyful time of the year.

The choir is grateful that we can praise God using our talents. We are singing with joy to glorify God and bless our congregation.

We hope to see many people this Sunday to celebrate and prepare the Holy Christmas Music program.



POTLUCK LUNCH

The Pastoral Care Committee of our church hosted a potluck lunch after church on October 19th. It was well attended by those who were at church that day, who enjoyed not only delicious dishes but also, and more importantly, fellowship with our church family. There is always plenty to share and all are welcome. Please hold the date of January 25, 2026, for the next potluck lunch.



Christian Education

Christmas at Streetsville United Church!

Sunday School and youth students are busily preparing for the annual White Gift Service, planned for December 7th! Songs, skits, scripture, prayer are all part of the church service and feature so many of our young people active in our Church activities.

Youth Group

Teenagers have gathered for conversation, a bit of bible study, and just plain having a good time! We encourage any teenagers in our congregation to join in gatherings that are usually right after the Service on Sunday, happening about once a month. Watch for bulletin announcements for further information.

Church Library

Although we continue to update and organize the library, it is open for browsing, borrowing, and generally getting acquainted with the collection! A special place is arranged for younger readers to enjoy while the adults peruse the books, and we are looking to expand the YA section to include reading material that leads younger readers to enjoy the library.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Will you volunteer a few hours for your Church Council? We need you more than ever!

Be part of a committee or working group and help our church sustain and grow. This is an opportunity to connect with others and make a difference. You can rejoin Council or get involved for the first time.

Questions can be directed to Kate Sparrow, Chair of Church Council or the Ministry and Personnel Committee members Teresa Judd and John Sparrow.

Please read: Summary of Church Council meetings September-November 2025

The purpose of the Church Council is to be the decision-making body of our congregation, responsible for leading us in fulfilling our mission and vision. Members of Council are elected at the Annual Congregational meeting each February, and Council meetings are held monthly. SUC Church Council members are enthusiastic and committed, and we welcome anyone interested to attend any meeting.

Church Council wants to let you know 'what we're doing'. As a form of transparency and communication and for general interest, the following is a summary of key points discussed at our September, October and November 2025 Church Council meetings.

September: We received two presentations from non-council guests; one regarding the reorganization and refresh of the 19 Bulletin Boards within our church building, incorporating our Mission and Vision. The other presentation was about a local food distribution charity considering SUC as a site for their food pantry program, which subsequently pulled back from this request of SUC due to internal matters. Council decided that if the people of the community want to rent SUC parking spaces, a discussion and a proposal need to occur via the Church Council. Reverend Joe asked Council to begin discerning the 'Summer Council Reflection Challenge' prompts sent to Council members.

October: Council continued discussing the top 3 prompts from the Summer Council Reflection Challenge within the context of our church's current financial status, asking members to consider 'How are the Holy Spirit and God directing us individually and collectively; what are we being called to do?' Also, a 'New Ideas' template is being created to gather details and formulate an implementation plan; the template is to be completed when someone has an idea or project, they would like the Council to consider. Council discussed recent challenges with some members not receiving church emails, with possible solutions. The Finance committee presented its monthly financial report with budget plans for 2026. Our northerly neighbour, 'New Eyes Childcare', has requested church parking space rental and gate access, discussed by Council. A subcommittee has been established to help plan the 200th anniversary of the United Church of Canada.

November: A small group of youth gathered with Reverend Joe and a Church Council member, and a volunteer leader, or a rotating roster of adults, are needed to continue nurturing the youth of our church outside of Sunday morning worship; this is a volunteer opportunity to be prayed for. We discussed the Reflection 'How might God want us to make changes to our physical church property to help live out our Mission and Vision'; the refreshed bulletin boards are an example of how renters might sense Faith in Action at SUC via these boards. Two Council members volunteers to improve the Queen Street garden/grass area, allowing a regular, welcoming outdoor 'Coffee Hour' in warmer weather. We noted that the front door of the church may need signage to welcome visitors and guests to the rear entrance of our church. Our December meeting will continue the discussion.





COFFEE HOUSE

The Coffee House, which was held on Saturday November 15th in our auditorium, was a very successful fundraising event for our church. It was a night full of wonderful music from our Boomer Band, Vince & Terry (flutist), Steve & Delicia, Reverend Joe and the Nuclear House Band. Thank you to the UCW who provided delicious desserts that everyone enjoyed. A BIG thank you to our tech team Dave Moase and Bevan Jutzen who worked hard to make this event happen. The members of our church who helped set up and took down tables, served refreshments, did elevator duty and sold tickets, your assistance was very much appreciated. Thank you to ALL who came out to support this event. 83 tickets were sold which amounted to \$1660 raised for SUC!





Christmas 2025 – Finance Report



We are now in the final quarter of 2025 and able to report on the financial status as of the end of October. October YTD financial deficit is (\$12,009). This is worse by \$6,078 than the previous year's YTD but \$6,501 better than our 10-month linear budget. Revenue of \$249,684 remains strong primarily due to Facilities Rental up \$17,124 over last year and \$10,566 ahead of the 10-month linear budget. YTD revenue of \$249,684 is higher than last year of \$229,726 for an improvement of \$19,958. Expenses of \$261,693 are higher by \$26,036 over last year's \$235,657 primarily due to increased personnel costs, operating church home, and office administration.

Thank you to everyone who purchased meat for another successful McGregor Meat fundraiser raising \$1,822.50. Thank you, Kevin and Wendy Dowling, for organizing, providing well designed brochure presentations and issuing split boxes providing sales we might otherwise not have.

Blessings to all from your Finance Team!

Streetsville United Church - Income Statement YTD October 2025 vs YTD October 2024 and 2025 Budget

	Actual YTD October				10-month Linear Budget		YTD Actual as % Annual Budget	Annual 2025 Budget		
	2025	2024	Variance		YTD	Variance				
			\$	%						
REVENUE										
Envelope Offerings - General, Initial, Special	\$ 128,162	\$ 128,670	\$ (508)	0%	\$ 139,167	\$ (11,005)	77%	\$ 167,000		
Loose Offering, Canada Helps, UCC Foundation	\$ 9,936	\$ 8,308	\$ 1,628	20%	\$ 6,917	\$ 3,019	120%	\$ 8,300		
United Church Women	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -		\$ 4,167	\$ 833	100%	\$ 5,000		
Facilities Rental - Total	\$ 90,028	\$ 72,904	\$ 17,124	23%	\$ 79,463	\$ 10,566	94%	\$ 95,355		
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 16,558	\$ 14,844	\$ 1,714	12%	\$ 13,667	\$ 2,892	101%	\$ 16,400		
Total Operating Receipts	\$ 249,684	\$ 229,726	\$ 19,958	9%	\$ 243,379	\$ 6,305	85%	\$ 292,055		
OPERATING EXPENSE										
Personnel	\$ 158,200	\$ 147,603	\$ 10,597	7%	\$ 156,453	\$ 1,746	84%	\$ 187,744		
Operating Church Home	\$ 70,184	\$ 63,114	\$ 7,070	11%	\$ 73,600	\$ (3,416)	79%	\$ 88,320		
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 33,309	\$ 24,941	\$ 8,369	34%	\$ 31,836	\$ 1,474	87%	\$ 38,203		
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 261,693	\$ 235,657	\$ 26,036	11%	\$ 261,889	\$ (196)	83%	\$ 314,267		
NET INCOME - SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ (12,009)	\$ (5,931)	\$ (6,078)		\$ (18,510)	\$ 6,501		\$ (22,212)		

OUTREACH / BENEVOLENT FUND

Outreach/Benevolent Receipts	\$ 20,475	\$ 19,528	\$ 947		\$ 19,092	\$ 1,384	89%	\$ 22,910
Outreach/Benevolent Disbursements	\$ 23,476	\$ 13,218	\$ 10,258		\$ 19,092	\$ 4,384	102%	\$ 22,910

