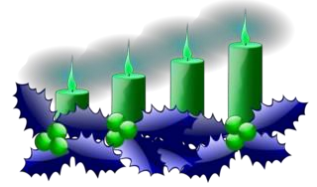


DECEMBER 1, 2019



Advent Newsletter

St. Paul's United Church, Tillsonburg, ON



MESSAGE FROM REV. KARLENE

Peace be to you My St. Paul's Family,

We have come to another Advent celebration! The word Advent signifies expectant waiting, waiting with a purpose. It is significant as it also involves a time of preparation amid the waiting. Jesus came, continues to come to us and will one day come back again victoriously. We are therefore called to be in full preparation mode.

So how best can we prepare ourselves? It begins by slowing down and checking ourselves, what are we doing with the gift of time? Each year we get the following:

52 weeks

365 days

8760 hours

525600 minutes

31536000 seconds



Have we been good stewards of this gift? Time is probably the most precious gift that we have received from God. If you haven't used it well now is a good time as any to begin. My prayer is that we use our God-given time well. Let's invest time in our family and friends, reading and studying God's word lifting up prayers of praise and thanksgiving, with God being our helper.

As we look towards the close of another year may our time in this season of Advent be richly blessed by God!

Your Servant in Christ,
Rev. Karlene



COUNCIL GREETING

As we approach the year end there are many activities, many special services and the busyness at St. Paul's increases. Amid the tinsel and lights, the coming of Advent reminds us all of the real reason for the season. Enjoy the season with family and friends; share the time with those less fortunate. Remember the star, a babe in a manger and the birth of a KING.

Blessings to all.
Mary Anne Silverthorn, Council Chair

Upcoming Dates:

- Dec. 8 – Children's Play
- Dec. 13 –Blue Christmas -1pm
- Dec. 14 - Messy Church
- Dec. 15-Cantata at 2:30pm
- Dec.16 –Poinsettia delivery
- Dec. 24 –Christmas Eve 7pm

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Message from Rev. Maurice: Volunteer Associate Minister (VAM) Getting full value from Advent:

As we light the candles during Advent Let us reflect: Starting with Hope. In a stress-filled world where many are not sure what tomorrow will bring, may we promote the possibility of Hope, in knowing more about the One who came to give hope and courage, to press on in the midst of uncertainty. Then we light the candle for Peace. Where there is ongoing conflict between nations, within nations and among people of different culture, language and religion to say nothing of conflict among friends, may a message of peace instruct us to pause at the manger and visit the prince of Peace and discover ways to resolve disputes to make the world a more peaceful planet. With renewed Hope and Peace may we find true Joy (3rd candle) and ultimately share the Love (4th candle) that helps heal our differences and other sources of pain. Blessings on all as we approach the Season Of Christmas and beyond. **Rev. Maurice.**



Message from Rev. Pat: Volunteer Associate Minister (VAM) I selected the Christmas Tree because it is a tradition most families honour in their home. It is believed that Germany was the first place known to develop the tradition of the Christmas Tree and there are many legends surrounding its origins. One such Legend tells of a poor woodsman who long ago met a lost and hungry child on Christmas Eve. Though very poor himself, the woodsman gave the child food and shelter for the night. The next morning the man awoke to find a beautiful glittering tree outside his door. The hungry child, it was said, was really the Christ Child. The tree was created to reward the good man for his charity.

Today, many Christmas trees have a theme and are decorated in one specific colour or with special ornaments. Our tree is trimmed with white decorations, with many ornaments relating to the Nativity. As I look at the star atop the tree, a flicker of light glows within my heart and is a reminder to me to remember others not only during the Christmas season but throughout the coming year.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas this holiday season. God's Blessing to you and your family, Rev. Pat



We
find
so many
ways to say
it. But the old
familiar words are
somehow always best:
so, from our family to yours
we pray that you will have a very
blessed and Christ-centred Christmas
season and may God's richest and choicest
blessings be yours, as once more we pause with
the world to remember the birth of our Lord, this day
and everyday throughout the coming year 2020.
Christmas
Greetings to
one and all.





UCW NEWS

"A special thanks to all who assisted in any way in making the Frosty Fair bazaar such a success! It truly takes everyone!"



AOTS NEWS

Dave Collis has joined the ranks of the Shared Chairing of our Club, joining Maurice and Dave Morris, following the retirement of Harley Jackson who served for several years. Also we note the resignation of our Treasurer Terry Pond after several years as our faithful Money man. We are looking for a new Treasurer. If interested in the position please contact one of the Co chairs. Up Coming: December Breakfast, Sun Dec. 15. Ladies and Staff appreciation potluck dinner and games nite. Saturday, January 18.



NEWS FROM KAREN HODGES—KIDSTOWN

Children's Christmas Concert – December 8 during worship – please support our kids.

The next P.A. Day is January 24 at Avondale United.

Sunday school volunteers needed as we are growing.... Please talk to Karen or Brenda.



MESSY CHURCH

The next meeting is December 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Our theme is: *You would not, could not, should not miss a birthday party such as this.*

Wear some red and white and join us for a **Cat in the Hat** themed birthday party as we celebrate the birthdays of our Messy Church family members and the most important birthday of all...the birth of the Christ Child. Crafts, games, activities, lunch and of course...cake.



Stewardship:

1. The new "Gifts with Vision" catalogue for 2019-2020 is now available online or in the Rotunda.
2. St. Paul's will once again participate in the Adopt-A-Family Christmas programme with the Salvation Army bringing Christmas joy to a local family. Stay tuned for details.



The funds collected from the special Green Christmas Giving envelope totals will be divided between the Salvation Army and Sakura House.





WORSHIP NEWS - Important Dates for our church family

Dec. 8 – Children’s Concert – during worship

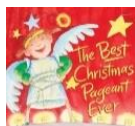
Dec. 13 – Blue Christmas worship at 1:00 p.m.

Dec. 15 – Cantata – “Good News From Home”

10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Soloists: Leo Archdekin, Linda McAllister, Dave Ramer and Bobbie Williams

Dec. 16 - Poinsettia Distribution to shut-ins and recently bereaved – Can you help? More people are needed. You can deliver on Monday.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.



TAB COLLECTION

THANKS FOR THE TABS Thanks in part to the people of St Paul’s Church who have been helping us collect aluminum tabs, we have bought Sophie her wheelchair and we are now working on one for Connor, a 13 year old boy. This will be our 49th wheelchair since we started in 1992. WOW, what a record! People often apologize to me for only contributing a small bag of tabs, but really, every little bit counts. If it weren’t for the many small bags, we would never have a large bag. At one place where people help us collect, many small bags ended up with me bringing back over 20 lbs of tabs for the next wheelchair! Thanks again to those who have helped and are continuing to help, without you, we could not be successful. If anyone would like more information on our program, please get in touch with me, Rick Aubrey, 519-983-2799.

It’s almost that time again! Submissions for the annual report are due no later than **Jan. 10th, 2020.** Thank you for your consideration in meeting this deadline.

All Charitable Donations must be received at the office/on the worship plate or in the mail box at the Bidwell entrance prior to December 29, 2019

