

NOVEMBER 2022



# Advent Greetings



St. Paul's United Church, Tillsonburg, ON

## MESSAGE FROM REV. KARLENE

- Messy Church Dec. 3
- Cantata Dec. 11
- Blue Christmas 1p.m. Dec. 16
- White Gift Sunday Dec. 18
- Christmas Eve Service 6:30 p.m.

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### Greetings St. Paul's Family,

With Advent approaching, we are reminded that another year is closing. Can you imagine? It seemed like yesterday we were ringing in the New Year and yet here we are closing it.

How did 2022 treat you? How are you feeling as we come to the close of another year? For me, I am grateful to be alive and to witness all the phenomenal happenings we experienced this year but I also can relate to the song writer:

**“What troubles have we seen. What conflicts have we passed, Fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last.”**

These covid years have taken a toll on all of us. It feels like we are speeding away on a treadmill but not actually going anywhere. Troubles on top of troubles: medical issues, loss of loved ones, fighting to cope and trying to pressing on.

Family, in the midst of everything can I remind you that God has been faithful? Yes, God assures us, we are not alone, He is with us. We can give many testimonies of prayers answered, sickness cured, provisions available as needed. God has opened doors that we never even knew existed.

Advent brings us new hope, peace, love and joy. This is what Jesus offers each of us in this season of Advent 2022. As we journey to Bethlehem's manger yet again, I pray we all find new inspirations. May our hearts will be filled with a new Word from God's lips to our ears.

Irrespective of how we experienced 2022, in faith we look to a brighter future. We might not know what it holds but we know that our Lord holds it in His hands and that is enough.

Can I ask you to make one of my favourite carols our prayer?

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Have a blessed Advent and a Holy Christmas.

**Shalom,  
Rev Karlene**

## ADVENT GREETING 2022 FROM COUNCIL



### What is Advent – people ask?

Advent, meaning “coming of “ or “arrival of “ is recognized and celebrated by the four weeks before the arrival of Christmas. So begins the usual preparations- bows and bells, candles and carols, festivities and food, parties and presents, tinsel and toys – each year the lists get longer and longer. The pace of each day seems to quicken among all the busyness of the month. Together all of these symbols combine to announce the arrival of the SEASON of Advent.

### One Special SYMBOL

During this SEASON – We as Christians get ready for the birth of Jesus symbolized by traditions. One such symbol, a wreath, is a well-known symbol of advent worship. Each Sunday during Advent, we light coloured candles that adorn the wreath. These candles signify Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. On Christmas Eve, the Christ Candle is lit symbolizing His birth and reminding us that Jesus came as Light into our World. This was a very SPECIAL GIFT to the world.



As we prepare to celebrate the festivities of the SEASON, with family and friends let us always remember the REAL REASON for this SEASON. Remember the LIGHT of the WORLD Jesus our Saviour!!!

### How are you getting ready for CHRIST(MAS)?

Mary Anne Silverthorn  
St. Paul's Council Chairperson



### GREETINGS FROM REV. PAT – PASTORAL CARE

Greetings, time passes quickly, but we are fascinated by the beauty of each season. With Spring and Summer past, we now watch the colourful Fall leaves flutter to the ground, as we anticipate the frosty days of Winter. With the approach of winter, we prepare for the season by storing the lawn furniture, preserving produce, and putting snow tires on our vehicles.

Just as we organize our households for winter, we also prepare for the season of Advent. Advent is a time of watching, waiting, and being prepared for the coming of the Christ Child. Being prepared can be compared to weaving a tapestry of past, present, and future.



When preparing to weave, we must empty the loom of previous threads. We shouldn't throw the threads out because that would be throwing away part of our past. So, we categorize the threads and pile the yarn around us as we begin to weave new fabric. Some threads have a golden, shimmering gleam, which represents shining moments from the past. While others are green and nubby, symbolizing hard work that achieved positive ends. Some are brown and brittle, memories of doing things that just don't seem to work to-day. Another pile of thread is brightly coloured, which refers to the creative energy displayed by the children of past, present, and future, whom God has entrusted to us. Some threads are dark and knotted; these threads were woven when we did not treat one another with respect.



*Each strand of thread has a story that shapes life's journey along the way, describing where we were, what we are, and waiting to be woven into the future.*

*During this Advent Season as we strive to be prepared, begin by weaving a tapestry that allows us to work toward keeping peace with one another and let God's love flow from our heart as we extend kindness to others. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year.*

*Have a Blessed Christmas, Rev. Pat and Bob*

***We wish you a blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year.  
Maurice and Ruth Francis***



### **UCW NEWS**

UCW members have resumed meetings following the summer break. These meetings are, however, via Zoom. We would like to invite all women of the congregation to join us on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. Our next meeting will be our Christmas General Meeting on Dec. 5. Join us on Zoom and enjoy fellowship with us. We look forward to seeing St. Paul's women then. We anticipate new executive in the New Year and would especially like to thank all who served over the past two years. The UCW has had two major projects this fall - Rheo Thompson Chocolate Sales and our annual Frosty Fair Bazaar. The bazaar was in person on Nov. 19 in the Banquet Hall from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. We wish to thank everyone who supported these projects either by assisting that day or purchasing the many items offered for sale. The money raised goes to the many organizations and endeavours we support which this year, also included raising funds for the surgery of Kaytlyn McKibbon. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**ALL Charitable Donations must be received at the office/mailbox prior to 6:00 p.m. on December 24 or on the offering plate at the Christmas Eve Service. This is our last deposit for 2022. The office will be closed Christmas week re-opening Tuesday, January 3.**



### *A Daily Devotional for Advent*

Your light will come, O Jerusalem.  
The Lord will dawn on you in radiant  
beauty. We shall see the glory of the  
Lord, the splendor of our God. The  
sign of the cross shall appear in the  
heavens, when our Lord shall come  
to judge the world.

