

DECEMBER 2021



Christmas Greetings



St. Paul's United Church, Tillsonburg, ON

MESSAGE FROM REV. KARLENE

- Christmas Eve Service 6:00 p.m. (pre-registration necessary)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MESSAGE FROM REV. KARLENE	1
MESSY CHURCH	1
WORSHIP	1
COUNCIL	2
SUNDAY SCHOOL	2
REV. PAT	3
ST. PAUL'S CHOIR	3
AOTS GREETING	4
UCW GREETING	4
REV. MAURICE	5
COMMUNITY KITCHEN	5

Greetings My St. Paul's Family and Friends,

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

As we celebrate this season, we are reminded that our Savior comes to us again as a newborn babe. A helpless babe in a manger, needing to be fed, changed and rocked to sleep yet a King to rule the world.

Our Advent devotions was aimed at helping us see the event through Mary's eyes. Did you feel her fear, her doubt and then her courage to say yes to be God vessel to save our world?

As we celebrate and say our Merry Christmases, we are being called to be vessels that our Master can use. Today we joyfully look at the cradle, soon we will experience the pain of the cross. As you celebrate this Christmas and reach out to others, may your homes be filled with His Peace, Hope, Love and Joy! Shalom,

Rev. Karlene

Thinking warmly of each of you and wishing you an extra measure of comfort, joy and hope this Christmas.

St. Paul's Worship Committee



From our Messy Church family to all of you-we hope your holiday is full of love, peace and joy.

Cheers, David and Norma Collis

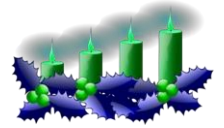


The Membership, Fellowship and Care Committee

send you Christmas greetings and wish you blessings in the New Year.



NEWS FROM COUNCIL



Christmas Greeting December 2021

Advent has arrived. The season planning begins. Bows and bells, candles and carols, festivities and food, parties and presents, tinsel and toys, the list is endless. Decorations appear and adorn each and every room. Stars twinkle in the night sky. These items combined with many others announce the arrival of the SEASON.



However, we must always remember the REAL REASON for this season. Thousands of years ago, a present arrived in a humble stable - with no gift wrapping - on a starlite night announced by angels and seen by shepherds. To the Christian world this unwrapped simple gift was that of the baby Jesus. That baby born in Bethlehem was in fact the Mighty Christ who came to bring us joy, strength and hope. He came to save us! As we prepare to celebrate the festivities of the SEASON, with family and friends, let us always remember the Real REASON for this SEASON.

It's Christmas 2021! There are many differences from last year but we still are working under many restrictions particularly now from the Southwestern Public Health. This year some are planning small family events. There are some concerts and parades for us to enjoy and put us in the "Christmas spirit". Although many of us have been vaccinated with two shots (and some have had or are getting their booster) and carry a passport, wearing a mask is still very important to protect ourselves and those around us.

Wherever you go or visit; wherever you travel; whatever you do - stay safe and healthy.

Blessings to all. Season's greetings to you and your family.

Mary Anne Silverthorn

Acting Chairperson

St. Paul's UC Council



GREETINGS FROM KIDSTOWN

Luke 2:10,11

I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior, yes the Messiah, the Lord has been born today in Bethlehem the city of David".

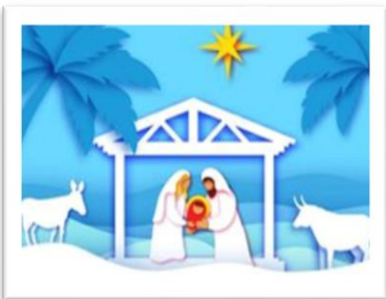
Great to be back in class with our children as we talk to them about the true meaning of Christmas.

We wish you a wonderful Christmas filled with the joy that comes from knowing that our Savior, our Redeemer has come - to save us.

Karen Hodges

Brenda Marshall

and the Sunday school children





Greeting from Rev. Pat - Pastoral Care



*“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby,
Keeping watch over their flocks at night.” Luke 2:8*

As we move through Advent we prepare our hearts and minds for the Christ Child's birth. It is a joyous time and an occasion when we enjoy participating in many traditions as well as reading or hearing about many legends.

One such legend is the story of a thorn tree that grows in Glastonbury, England. In the early years of the Christian Church, Joseph of Arimathea travelled from Jerusalem to Glastonbury. Joseph was the one who removed Jesus body from the cross and lay it in the tomb.

When Joseph arrived in Glastonbury just before Christmas, he planted in the ground his hawthorn walking staff, claiming the area as holy ground for the Lord. On Christmas Eve the staff had taken root and was blooming. Each year the staff continues to bloom on Christmas Eve. It is said for centuries people have travelled to see it.

The original hawthorn staff was cut down, but shoots had fortunately taken root in nearby ground. Even today a thorn tree from a shoot of Joseph's staff continues to bloom on Christmas Eve, in the abbey grounds at Glastonbury.

What do we share in our traditions every Christmas that remind us of Joseph's staff or a shepherds' staff? Of course, it's the Candy Cane. When we look at the Candy Cane, we remember that the shepherds were the first to hear about Jesus' birth. When the crook of the candy cane is down; it looks like the letter "J" which stands for Jesus. The stripes of red and white symbolize the suffering Jesus endured, and a reminder to us that when we follow in the way of Jesus we are healed.

This year has been a difficult year for all of us, with the lack of socializing. However, as we move forward, we are now able to enjoy the company of friends and family and hopefully the pandemic will soon be over. So, during the Advent season as we prepare to greet the Christ Child and on Christmas day gather with family may the joy, peace, and goodwill of the season rest upon us all. Have a very Merry Christmas and Healthy, Safe, Happy New Year.

Rev. Pat and Bob



ST. PAUL'S CHOIR

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful Christmas!

Many blessings to all at St. Paul's.

*Sincerely,
Shelley Veermersch
Music Director*





Greetings from St. Paul's AOTS Club.

As with most organizations in and beyond the church, AOTS has been keeping in touch with members via the Executive which has been having almost monthly meetings. We celebrated our Annual Church Service on Oct. 17 with Rayburn Lansdell as our guest speaker. A well presented and challenging message. The other event since March of 2020 was our take away Smoked Pork Chop event on Oct. 24. 125 people enjoyed a delicious dinner mainly prepared by Beres Catering. Looking ahead to 2022, AOTS is discussing the possibility of having women members as part of our club. Also we are wondering if our Spaghetti dinner will be in doors or take-away. All depends on the status of the Pandemic.

New members are always welcome: contact Dave Collis for details.

Meanwhile we extend to all who read this note a meaningful and blessed Christmas sharing the greatest gift, the Gift of Jesus and the love and peace he brings to a hurting world.

Submitted by the Executive: Co chairs Dave Collis Maurice Francis, Dave Morris. Other members: Rick Aubrey, Sam Helsdon, Sam Lamb, Glen Groom, Floyd Marshall and John Somerville.



UCW News

As 2021 winds its' way to a close, the UCW would like to thank everyone for their support of our latest projects - the sale of Easter and Christmas chocolates from Rheo Thompson and the sale of geraniums last spring.

This year, due to Covid restrictions, the UCW made the decision to take the Frosty Fair Bazaar online again. Although many of us are not on Facebook, the bazaar was once again a resounding success! A special thanks goes out to the organizers who managed the technology so well! Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this a success. Proceeds from both these projects will go towards meeting our 2022 outreach activities.

Due to Covid restrictions the UCW will be delivering store bought, sealed cookies to the shut-ins again this Christmas.

On behalf of the UCW Executive, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Fran Bell
UCW President*



Maurice's Message for St. Paul's Christmas News Letter:

If we have learned anything from the pandemic it is that we know a lot about different ways of doing things. Starting as followers of Jesus, with how we worship. Who would have thought 20 months ago that we would only be able to attend church by making an appointment at least 3 days ahead of Sunday. But many have done it. It's better than sitting at home and watching another old western movie. For Christmas this year what will be different for you? A new baby? A new friend? Remembering a lost friend or loved one no longer with us?

Whatever your circumstance may you and yours become more aware than ever that God's gift of Jesus is still relevant and meaningful and whose living Spirit is near, helping you through and beyond not just Dec. 25 but throughout the rest of this year and through all the times God has in store for what lies ahead. Blessings and Peace be with you always.

Rev Maurice VAM



Community Kitchen - November 16th, 2021



On October 16, 2021, we started our twelfth season of Community Kitchen, feeding take-out meals to 45 people, as well as delivering meals to shut-ins and to the Hill Top Motel. We have never served 45 for our first meal of the season before.

The Outreach continues to be busy, with an average meal service of 48. In light of the current situation, I expect our numbers will continue to rise throughout the winter.

As well as reaching the regular guests, we have seen an increasing number of unfamiliar faces this year, including some obviously homeless people.

It is a pleasure to be able to cook at our church again - a partial return to normal!

We, the volunteers of Community Kitchen, wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Laurie
Drew



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 26, 2021