

# The Harcourt Herald

*The life and work of the Harcourt Memorial United Church*

December  
2016

# Harcourt Memorial United Church

*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada*

We are a people of God called together and sent forth by Christ to

*Seek / Connect / Act*

## **Our Mission:**

Inspired by the Spirit, we participate in Christian practices that strengthen us in the building of just, compassionate, and non-violent relationships

## **Our Vision Statement:**

To be an authentic community of spiritual growth and service

## **Our Core Values:**

Risk...Respect...Responsibility...Vulnerability...Trust

## **Our Purpose:**

To welcome and strengthen in community all who wish to serve God and follow the way of Jesus

## **Harcourt Memorial United Church**

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## **The Harcourt Herald**

*Published 10 times each year*

*by the*

*Communications Committee*

**Your contributions are welcome!**

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**Sept-June**

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Printer: Anne Purkis



# Worship Schedule

## **December 4 Advent II Peace Readings**

9:00 a.m. Worship in the Chapel

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary for all ages

10:30 a.m. "MANNA", an all-ages experiential worship opportunity in the Friendship Room

Nursery care available at the 10:30 services

## **December 11 Advent III Joy**

9:00 a.m. Worship in the Chapel

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary for all ages

10:30 a.m. "MANNA", an all-ages experiential worship opportunity in the Friendship Room

Nursery care available at the 10:30 services

## **December 18 Advent IV Love**

9:00 a.m. Worship in the Chapel

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary for all ages

Nursery care available.

## **December 24 Christmas Eve**

4:00 p.m. Family Service. Come Celebrate the Christmas Story

10:00 p.m. Candlelight, Carols and Communion

## **December 25 Christmas I**

No Service

## **January 1 Christmas II**

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary for all ages

Nursery care available



# The Ministers' Quill

by Jim Ball

Perched on the crest of a great hill, overlooking a green and floral city park, you find the welcoming steps of Grace Cathedral. They lead to a building of large grey stone that is stark in its simplicity, yet serene in its mood. Its walls and columns soar several stories high, creating an atmosphere of space and light and air. When you enter the long central nave you encounter a spectacular sight. First, a magnificent font of ruddy granite brimming with water greets you. It invites you in. It marks the way forward



*Photo by Jim Ball*

into a story and space and experience of hope. *'We begin here',* it whispers silently to all who approach. *'We cross the sea from one life to another here. Put your burdens down if you can. Carry them if you must. Either way, all will be transformed on this journey. Welcome! Welcome! Enter into grace!'* Next you encounter a great bronze labyrinth inlaid into the vast stone floor. An ancient tool for meditation and prayer, the labyrinth is not a maze. You cannot get lost in it. Which, for lives that have known too much challenge and too much dislocation, is a welcome message. And a welcome experience. Not all who enter choose to follow the folded pathway of this great circle. But many do. Members, pilgrims, and guests alike walk it. They pause every so often to look around and to look within. They pray, remember, consider and listen. Beyond the labyrinth are the wooden pews of a traditional church.

With padded kneelers for prayer. Above them miles and miles of coloured ribbon, all ruby and blue, hang down from the great vaulted ceiling. Each ribbon contains the hand written prayers of visitors to this place that were collected over the course of an entire year. They were eventually hung as an art installation. Prayer goes up from the pews below. Prayer rains down from the ribbons above. The space is flooded with the colours of stained glass and ribbon. The place is literally awash with the stirrings of the sacred. It is breathtaking. Warm. And uplifting. As the harmonies of the music and people fill the space around you, and touch deep places within you, you hear again the words that greeted you on entry, the ones that whispered to you in the silence: *'Put your burdens down if you can. Carry them if you must. Either way, all will be transformed...'* Advent is an entranceway. So too is the Harcourt 20/20 report. The season we now enter marks the beginning of a fresh journey of hope and transformation. It is, and will be, filled with grace. *'Welcome!'* this season says to you and me. *'Welcome!'* it says again. *'And be not afraid. Enter these doors with thanksgiving! Put your burdens down if you can. Carry them if you must. Help one another as you go. And remember that all will be transformed.'* For "'tis the season"! Blessings!



The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington Adopt-a-Family program **Donate a gift card** to be given to teens, parents and young adults. The most useful cards are: \$25 Grocery store, Stone Road Mall, Cineplex, Chapters, Walmart; \$10 Tim Horton, Subway cards. Buy these cards yourself or donate money toward the purchase of a card. Donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt. Orders or cards will be accepted between the two services and after the 10:30 and Manna services. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry in our community. More information: Merrill Pierce [smpierce@sympatico.ca](mailto:smpierce@sympatico.ca) 519.836.8867



by Lorraine Holding, Chair of Council

By the time you read this update, we will know the results of our November 27<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting. Our November Council meeting included thorough and lengthy discussion of the draft Joint Waterloo Presbytery/Harcourt Memorial Needs Assessment Report. We are very thankful for the work of the Writing Team (Peter Jackson, Jean Julian and Melissa Kwaitkowski) who ably pulled together information from our October 22<sup>nd</sup> workshop and input from Ministry & Personnel Committee about the proposed vacancy on our paid accountable ministry team. With acceptance of the report by Council, we move to the next step on our journey – presentation to the Congregation for approval.



*Workshop - Photo by J. Daminato*

What does that mean for next steps? I'll write more about that in my update for the January issue of the *Herald*. For sure, it means that we all have more work

ahead of us as we continue to name and implement our evolving priorities. Our Harcourt 20/20 banner includes a sign post on the right-hand side that points to the future with these words: Community; Resources; Mission; Spirit; Love. We will continue to braid together our three narratives into concrete ways to Seek – Connect – Act.

November is also when Council provided guidance on the draft 2017 budget prepared by the Finance Committee. Our concern and discussion highlighted the tension between all the good work generated within Harcourt and the financial resources required to support what we do. We will review it again in December before approving for presentation to the Congregation at the

February 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Our stewardship of time, talents, energy and money is so important to carrying out our ministry as a Congregation. We approved a Request for Action to ask a small ad hoc team, led by Mark Sears, to evaluate the future use of the Greeting Area, create a vision and plan to update it with a more contemporary look, and determine the need for information to be electronically viewed in that space. The team will report back to Council by April 2017. We also noted that lay leadership roles are the keys to Harcourt's success. Our search continues for a Treasurer, Council Vice-Chair, Umbrella Councillor for Congregational Life, Stewardship Chair and other positions. Please offer yourself or recommend someone else to pick up this challenge. Each member of Council would be happy to provide encouragement and more details. Ask us!

During this Season of Advent, we celebrate the many contributions of many people who are part of Harcourt's community of faith. Let's wrap each person with our blessings for hope, peace, joy and love as we prepare for a meaningful Christmas.

With faith and hope.

### **SPECIAL GIFTS THAT COST VERY LITTLE**

- ♥ Donate volunteer time on your friend's behalf to his/her favourite community agency.
- ♥ Create a "Memory Jar" with folded strips of paper that hold a daily reminder of things you've done together as friends.
- ♥ Give bags of pre-mixed dry cookie mix with instructions on how to make them on the bag.
- ♥ Exchange gifts with friends of something you already own with a poem of why you are giving it.
- ♥ Give a basket of veggies with a recipe. Or give a special (clean) stone and a recipe for "stone soup" (see below).
- ♥ Make a small personal photo album into a calendar or make a movie with your cellphone to share.
- ♥ Give an older child some home-made playdough in a special jar (recipe online).
- ♥ Give some home-roasted coffee beans and decorate the jar (instructions online).

# New to Harcourt? Welcome!

**Harcourt is a diverse community that welcomes everyone.**

Listen to what some people are saying about their experiences here. Press and hold the ctrl button on your computer and click your mouse on the photos to view the videos online.



To contact the Church:  
Office e-mail  
[office@harcourtuc.ca](mailto:office@harcourtuc.ca) or  
call 519 824-4177

Visit our webpage at  
[www.harcourtuc.ca](http://www.harcourtuc.ca)  
for information about  
services, supports, room  
rental, activities and  
outreach



# People are Talking About...



- **Find out WHY the Moderator invites everyone this season to consider Gifts with Vision.**

This year's *Gifts with Vision* catalogue offers opportunities to give meaningful gifts to bring hope to people in their community, in Canada, and right around the world. But there's an important reason why Moderator Jordan Cantwell is promoting this message. <http://www.united-church.ca/news/united-church-launches-giving-tuesday-challenge>

- **Calgary Suffragette remembered for moving her United Church faith into action.**

Emily Spencer fought long and hard for the right of women to vote and for the betterment of women in general. Her connection to the United Church of Canada is fascinating. <http://www.lfpress.com/2016/11/20/ontario-born-suffragettes-influence-felt-far>

- **Southern Ontario study finds that Protestant churches that focus on the Gospel and prayer are the only ones growing.**

Haskell and Flatt share their findings with *Maclean's* Magazine – nine things that stood out among the answers given by congregants and clergy that are growing or shrinking. <http://www.macleans.ca/society/nine-interesting-data-points-on-the-state-of-todays-protestant-churches/>

- **Hate rehab: Why some want an alternative to jail for the young racist who sprayed graffiti on an Ottawa United Church.**

In Ottawa, the Collaborative Justice Program offers alternative sentencing, including opportunities for victims to meet and talk to those responsible for a crime, as well as develop plans to address and fix the harm done. Some clergy suggest that this may be a golden opportunity to educate more than just one perpetrator. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/racist-graffiti-restorative-justice-1.3861530>

## CHALMERS COMMUNITY SERVICES (CCCS): CHRISTMAS GIFT BAG CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY!

*We hope you will consider supporting this valuable program. Each year we hear that CCSC guests are grateful they are to receive this gift and that, for many, it is the ONLY gift they receive. For this reason we ask that you include new, good quality items in their original packages. Please note that there is no need for the items to be gift wrapped. Christmas Gift Bags can be delivered in new, reusable shopping bags.*

- One pair of warm gloves
- One pair of thick socks
- Regular size shampoo (not conditioner)
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste and/or dental floss
- Shaving cream for men
- Box of tampons or pads for women
- Shower gel, body wash, or soap
- Antiperspirant/deodorant
- Package of 5-10 disposable razors
- Boxed candy or boxed chocolate (not homemade)
- Small jar of instant coffee, box of tea bags, or tin/box of hot chocolate

"Happiness doesn't result from what we get, but from what we give."

**Ben Carson**



*Please contact Anne Purkis, [office@harcourtuc.ca](mailto:office@harcourtuc.ca) / 519.824.4177 if you wish to participate in this year's Christmas Gift Bag Campaign and let her know how many Christmas bags you wish to provide.*

*Please return the completed gift bag to the Harcourt office by **Monday, December 5th**. This program is run through Chalmers Community Services Centre [www.chalmerscentre.ca](http://www.chalmerscentre.ca)*

*Photo: CCS Christmas Bag Campaign. Used with permission*

# Committee & Group

## News



*Graphic from Creative Commons*

### Men's Group Reflects on Christmas Past

by Ross McKenzie

Bill Lord will be leading the next meeting on Wednesday, December 14th. Sandy Middleton will speak about "Christmas Memories in a Country at War". All men are welcome to attend and we invite you to bring a friend or a neighbour who would enjoy this meeting. Coffee will be ready at 7:45 a.m., the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m.

### Recognizing Harcourt – In a Flash!

by Joan Barham, Chair Communication Committee

HOW EASILY CAN **YOU** RECOGNIZE HARCOURT?



We have a Harcourt Logo, a new Harcourt website, Harcourt colours, a Directory, however, the question remains, what else can we do so that it is really easy for people to “recognize Harcourt – in a flash?”

Council has charged the Communication Committee to work with the congregation to enable Harcourt recognition to happen.

WHAT IS MISSING, WHAT DO **YOU** WANT TO SEE CHANGED?

Communication invites you to give us your feedback with respect to “what is missing” or “what you wish to see changed” with respect to improving Harcourt recognition.

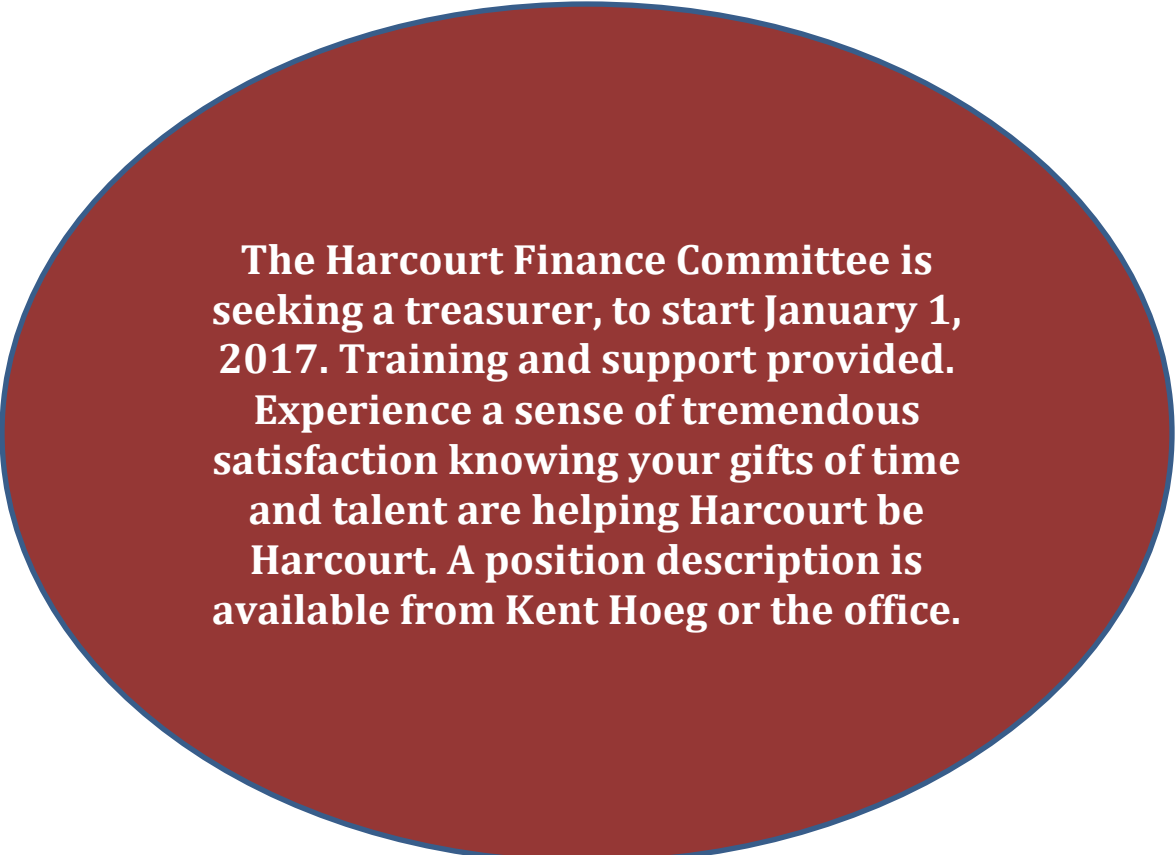


For example, what do we give to people, who are interested in Harcourt, to take away in hard copy from Harcourt or to send to them digitally? Do we need to revise the materials that are in the church pews? Would it be better if all the cushions in the pews had red, orange or green cushion covers? Would a Harcourt pin be handy to wear so more people would learn about Harcourt? Be creative! Remember that Millennials and young families use digital communication to connect. Any special ideas for the website, Facebook or twitter tweets? Any special “items”? What Harcourt information are you getting, or not getting, that has not got Harcourt “signage” on it?

If you give us your wishes for change or new communication messaging, and making better use of our logo and colours (green, red, orange) Communication will consult with people affected by such change and develop new ideas with them to respond to your suggestions. A report for action will then go to Council.

We can't wait to receive your ideas! THANKS A BUNCH.

Please send your ideas to: [jfhbarham@gmail.com](mailto:jfhbarham@gmail.com), to the office at [office@harcourtuc.ca](mailto:office@harcourtuc.ca), or connect in person with Joan Barham, Nancy Ryan, Lorna Rourke, Gill Joseph or Susan Cullis (the Communication Committee).



**The Harcourt Finance Committee is seeking a treasurer, to start January 1, 2017. Training and support provided. Experience a sense of tremendous satisfaction knowing your gifts of time and talent are helping Harcourt be Harcourt. A position description is available from Kent Hoeg or the office.**

# **Justice and Outreach – An Update on Activities**

by Arlene Fuhr, Chair, Justice and Outreach Committee

The Justice and Outreach Committee wants to share and to celebrate with you some of the things that have been happening this year. This is not an exhaustive list but rather offers a brief snapshot of some of the areas in which Harcourt has been involved. These endeavours are an attempt to honour the interests of the 21 folks who gathered in January and indicated a desire to focus on the areas of refugees, indigenous relations, poverty, and LGBTQ+.

## **Syrian Refugees:**

- So far, Harcourt folks have welcomed refugees to Guelph by providing some fresh fruit and vegetables for five Syrian families when they moved into their permanent homes. This initiative is in cooperation with Jim Estill's group.
- Harcourt joined with the Girl Guides in gathering cutlery and the Caroline Harcourt women collected dish towels and cloths for Syrians coming to Guelph.

## **The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Indigenous Peoples:**

- Pamela Girardi represented Harcourt at an event held in Saskatoon that focused on churches' responses to the Truth and Reconciliation process. Pamela had the opportunity to share insights during a recent Sunday morning service and also spoke with the Manna group about her experience.
- A number of folks from Harcourt attended four evenings with an Indigenous focus held at Dublin United this fall.
- Three members from Harcourt are part of the University of Guelph Third Age Learning series where we heard from Indigenous peoples and became aware of Indigenous issues.
- Two people recently attended a weekend at Five Oaks that focused on the TRC and Indigenous residential school experiences.

## **Poverty:**

- Chalmers continues to be our main Outreach focus. In addition to the many efforts to support Chalmers such as Saturday evening suppers (the next one is on Dec. 3), garden produce, clothing and food donations we are now collecting fresh eggs and cheese. Insulated bags are supplied to receive these the first Sunday of each month.

## **LGBTQ+:**

- Julie took part in planning and publicity for Guelph Pride 2016 in the months leading up to the May, 2016 events -- a transitional year for Harcourt participation as responsibility for the Story Telling event was passed on to others.
- Harcourt continues to support the LGBTQ+ community in Guelph by providing

space for the Rainbow Chorus as well as a safe and affordable meeting place for small LGBTQ+ monthly gatherings. There will be a gala night in December to fundraise for the Rainbow Chorus' trip to Carnegie Hall in 2017.

### **University of Guelph Ecumenical Chaplaincy:**

- Julie & Miriam participated in the U of G orientation in early September that Andrew Hyde, the Ecumenical chaplain, held for all places of worship. This was to acquaint the LGBTQ+ student community with worship choices and support in the wider community.
- At the invitation of Andrew Hyde, twice this fall, several people from Harcourt have provided a crock pot meal and some dessert for U of G students who attend Ecumenical Chaplaincy events.

### **Other Areas of Involvement:**

- This fall, Harcourt has provided kitchen support and baked cookies for participants in the Park'n Dance program that is being held at the church.
- J & O is supportive of the teens from Harcourt who will attend TCOW in the Spring of 2017.
- There have been two GUM gatherings of J & O committees of the four United churches in Guelph. Harcourt hosted one this Spring and Trinity led the fall one. At both events there was good sharing among the participants.

In addition, many people at Harcourt are engaged in outreach in a whole variety of important ways within the Guelph community and beyond. We give thanks that people at Harcourt are so engaged and compassionate.

## **Harp Music a Highlight for Upcoming Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship**

by Jean Hume

The Caroline Harcourt Friendship Circle will have their special Christmas Meeting on Monday, December 12 th. Appetisers at 11:30 am, bag lunch at 12 noon. Mary Harding will be playing her harp and introducing us to the history of the carols that she would like to have us sing with her. Following our devotional time, we will share in enjoying each other's favourite Christmas goodies. From past experience, I know that you will find them decadently tasty! All women are welcome to join us for this beautiful Christmas music and fellowship.



*Photo Wikimedia Commons*



## Ready to Go: Update on Washrooms on the Sanctuary Level

by Dave Hume, Chair of the Sanctuary Level Washroom Committee

The City of Guelph issued a Building Permit for the washrooms last week. The Building Committee are meeting this coming week to make final decisions on details (colours, tiles, makes and models of toilets, sinks, lights etc.) in order to minimize the likelihood of any change orders during construction. Change orders can increase costs dramatically. When we get those details agreed upon, then a call for tenders will go out. Thanks to Joan Barham and Lynda Jessop-Lew for their time and efforts in getting some of the details decided.

## Once Upon a Christmas Time...

by Mary Lou Funston, Library Committee

Once again the season of Advent and Christmas is upon us. With that in mind, I have chosen books that will, hopefully, help in the planning for and understanding of this festive season. Again, all the following books will be displayed on the shelves, for easy pick-up and perusal.

## PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS:

\* I'M DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS – Gifts, Decorations, and Recipes That Use Less and Mean More. Anna Getty 745 GET

*Lots of ideas, ranging from very simple to more complex, for personalizing your Christmas gifts, decorations and food. I'm going to photocopy some of the ideas – especially recipes! Ever heard of Seven Layers of Sin Bars??!!*

\* CHRISTMAS CRAFTS – Kids Can Easy Crafts. Judy Ann Sadler 745 SAD

*Lots of ideas for Christmas crafts from around the world. Lots of clear instructions and pictures for children to follow. They really look like a lot of fun to make. I'm sorry my nieces, nephews and greats are all grown up!*

\* Step by Step CHRISTMAS CRECHE. Lane & Chapman 745 LAN

*Again, lots of clear instructions and illustrations of each step in the process. This little book actually uses the Christmas story along with the instructions. It would be fun to do this with kids.*

- \* THINGS TO MAKE & DO FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS. Martha Gee 269 GEE

*Lots of creative ideas for both Advent and Christmas. In this book, the instructions are for the adults who are working with the children. Each activity is described for a particular age group –usually elementary children.*

## UNDERSTANDING OF CHRISTMAS:

I have chosen only one book from several on the shelf, because I think it is one that can be picked up and leafed through until something catches your attention. In other words, it doesn't require a lot of time at this busy, busy time of year.

- \* WERE THEY WISE MEN OR KINGS? The Book of Christmas Questions

Joseph Walsh 394 WAL

*The title is self-explanatory!*

## FOR THE YOUNGER SET:

There are several books on Christmas and Advent on the shelf of both Picture books and Junior books. The Christmas section of the Picture book block is on the shelf facing the table. On the Junior block it is on the bottom shelf facing the window. Many of these books will be put up on the top of each block during the Advent and Christmas season. Please bring your young ones to check out what is available.

### For the Junior set:

- \* Amahl and the Night Visitors. Gian Mennoti J MEN

*An old favorite of many.*

- \* Who Was Born This Special Day? Bunting & Gore P BUN

*The question is asked of the animals and objects that were present in the stable. Of course the answer is no until it gets to 'the Child'. The illustrations are beautifully delicate and the text is simple. A lovely book.*

We of the library committee invite you to come in at any time (the door is never locked) and explore the shelves. You may be surprised by what you find!

An audio version of Jim Ball's meditation sermon is available online [here](#). To access the audio: hold down the ctrl button on your computer and click your mouse on the word 'here' above.

# Our Community

## Searching

by Janet Webster

Verses: Psalm 147:3 *God heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds.*

Matthew 28:10, 20 *Do not be afraid. I am with you always.*

Quran: Thunder 13.28 *In the remembrance of God our hearts are comforted.*

When I was first asked to lead this worship for Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship on November 13<sup>th</sup> I assumed that my theme would be *Remembrance and Sacrifice* in keeping with our guest's topic. But like everyone else, as the previous week had unfolded, I had been caught up in each breaking news story: the reaction to a certain election result, the death of an iconic Canadian poet/songwriter and then on November 11<sup>th</sup>, a moving acknowledgement of the great price paid by so many. Whether we attended an outdoor ceremony or watched the service from Parliament Hill on television, we all took part and were affected. Then came the news of an earthquake in New Zealand. I know that many of us watched that story with great concern and prayed for places and people that we know well.

November is a funny sort of month especially for we Canadians. We are putting the gardens to rest. The bounty of produce has been harvested, preserved, frozen or pickled and stored in the cold rooms, pantries and freezers. Days are growing shorter and the air gradually cooling. The commercials and flyers are already reminding us that another big event is ONLY six weeks away. But November itself??? No big holiday or event. It is simply a time of waiting. So, how do I find the inspiration I need to lead worship? I turned to the gardening section of the Harcourt Library and found a book with a passage that resonated for me. Craig L Goodwin (p.154-155) writes:

*"Just as our garden arrived at a colorful crescendo, it began the inevitable journey back to topsoil brown, back to where it came from...."*

*Life is like that, with most of our days spent working toward short-lived fulfillments.*

*This is one of the things I appreciate most about the church-year calendar, where the emphasis for the majority of the year is on our experience of waiting and anticipating. Both Advent and Lent conclude in ultimate fulfillments, the birth and resurrection of*



*Jesus, but the seasons that precede these days of fulfillment are by design intentional times of waiting.*

*Autumn is the one natural season without a corresponding big church-year liturgical event. The winter has Advent, spring has Lent, summer has Pentecost, but autumn falls during what the church calls "ordinary time". For a good thirty-three weeks out of the year, the Sundays are a relentless march of ordinary time. This is actually a fairly recent naming of the non-Advent and non-Lenten seasons. They used to be labelled by the number of Sundays after Pentecost. There is some debate about the meaning of "ordinary", that perhaps it doesn't mean what it sounds like it means. But I think it's actually an unintentional stroke of genius.*

*At the heart of the good news of the gospel is that God has chosen to come among the ordinary, to surround the ordinary with holiness. The God who is born under the glorious light of the star walks with us in the flesh. The Jesus who miraculously rises from the dead also joins us in the common experience of death.*

*Autumn is ordinary time. Following the glorious satisfaction of the harvest, it's time to walk once again in the rhythms of waiting and anticipating, resting in the certainty that spring will come again, grateful for past provision and longing for a distant hope."*

Isn't that what those men and women in the air force, on the ground and at sea longed for? Ordinary lives and the ordinary rhythms of home and family.

The airwaves have also been full of the words and songs of Leonard Cohen this week. He was a complicated man but one who was searching, meditating and deeply conscious of God's presence and power. Have you heard his rendition of "In Flanders Fields"?!!!! Powerful and moving. His poetry and lifestyle were, and are, often controversial, difficult to understand. No "I Love You, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah," for him!

In one interview I heard last week, one of Cohen's close associates was asked, "But what do those words in that song mean?" The answer was: "I wouldn't dream of sharing my take. Each of us finds our own meaning". So true.

Here are a few lines from a song by Leonard Cohen that I have been mulling over in my mind. They seem so apt for these times:

*"The birds, they sang  
At the break of day  
Start again  
I heard them say  
Don't dwell on what  
Has passed away  
Or what is yet to be  
Ah, the wars  
They will be fought again*

*The holy dove  
She will be caught again  
Bought and sold  
And bought again  
The dove is never free*

*Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in"*

Let's join together in a prayer for peace. Thank you for listening.

#### References:

Goodwin, Craig L. (2011). Year of Plenty. Minneapolis: Sparkhouse Press.  
Cohen, Leonard (1997). Anthem. In: "More Best of Leonard Cohen", Columbia Records.  
<http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/leonardcohen/anthem.html>



### STONE SOUP RECIPE

PLACE A SMALL WHOLE UNPEELED  
POTATO (THE STONE) INTO A CLEAN POT.  
ADD CHICKEN OR VEGETABLE STOCK,  
CHOPPED ONIONS AND GARLIC,  
VEGETABLES, MACARONI OR RICE AND  
SPICES (TRY CHILI PEPPERS FOR A SPICY  
TREAT) AND COOKED PIECES OF BEEF,  
PORK OR CHICKEN (OPTIONAL). BOIL  
TOGETHER FOR 20 MINUTES. SERVE OR  
CHILL AND PLACE THE 'STONE' INTO A JAR  
WITH THE SOUP AND GIVE AS A GIFT!  
CHECK OUT THE STORY OF 'STONE SOUP'  
AT  
[HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/STONE  
\\_SOUP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stone_soup)

# A Celebration of Park 'n Dance

by Arlene Fuhr

If you are around Harcourt on a Thursday afternoon you might hear music and laughter emanating from the gym. You might see a few Harcourt members participating, too. Why is Justice and Outreach excited to support this community outreach opportunity?

Sarah Jane Burton, who leads the group, passionately reflects on the Park 'n Dance experience:

“How fortunate can a person be to share what one loves with people who seem to deeply appreciate and enjoy the experience? I heard about Dance for PD® within a week after retiring from my professorship specializing in movement and dance at Sheridan College. I knew immediately that this was what I was to do to give back to my community. Within the month I took the training specifically for dance for people with Parkinson’s offered by Dance for PD® at the National Ballet School of Canada.



*Photo by A. MacNeil*

After assisting for a year and attending the advanced Dance for PD® training from the founders in Brooklyn, N.Y., I started Park'n Dance in Guelph. I am blessed to be given this wonderful opportunity to move to music with those who may never have imagined they would be dancing. As one participant of the original program said, “Who would have ever thought that Parkinson’s would bring me to dance?” There is such generosity of spirit, bravery and commitment from the participants and their spouses/caregivers as they challenge themselves with new sequences. Our mantra is, “There are no mistakes, only solos.”



Through good days and shaky days we have been moving together in a choreographed sequence to Alison MacNeil's lovely piano rendition of "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning!" We sing it together, too, as we move. It is beautiful. We literally dance in our chairs, then behind our chairs, reinforcing our balance. Then we may cross the floor to "Singing in the Rain" and end up stomping and side-sliding to the music from "Zorba."

**Park 'n Dance not only provides stretching and movement for all levels of Parkinson's patients and their caregivers but also provides lots of smiles and laughter for both dancers and volunteers.**

Everyone is always included. No matter what the mobility issues may be, we find a way. It's fun, and we are all grateful. We finish with a simple circle ritual that is at the end of these classes all over the world. Then we flow into the Friendship Room for light refreshments organized by our crew of wonderful volunteers. The enthusiastic chatter indicates that this social time is a very important part of the program. A community is created through dance. We wish to sincerely thank you, Harcourt Memorial United Church, for welcoming us so warmly.

One of the program's participants shares, "Park 'n Dance not only provides stretching and movement for all levels of Parkinson's patients and their caregivers but also provides lots of smiles and laughter for both dancers and volunteers. These dedicated volunteers add a social aspect to the sessions during both the dance time and the social time that follows. I look forward to Thursday afternoons and the weekly time spent at Harcourt. Park 'n Dance has become an important part of dealing with my Parkinson's Disease."

A caregiver who attends Park'n Dance with her husband who has Parkinson's says, "I accompany my husband Malcolm to Park'n Dance and I was delighted to join and participate in a lovely positive group. The music provided by Alison McNeil is so instantly recognizable to our particular age group and Sarah Jane is so joyful in her interpretations when she is teaching the moves. After the first session, we both felt so happy and the feeling lasted even until the next day when I biked through the Village by the Arboretum singing 'Oh what a beautiful morning' at the top of my voice."

**"He who has not Christmas  
in his heart will never find  
it under a tree."  
Roy L. Smith**

## The TCOW Trip Needs Your Support

Two Countries One World (TCOW) participants Kaitlyn Lew and Lillian Carvalho are going on this year's trip to learn more about social justice. The two are headed for Colombia and will be travelling over the student March Break (between March 10-19). However, they need your help. If you are interested in/able to make a donation to help fund their experience, cheques can be made out to Harcourt with "TCOW" written in the memo line. This makes you eligible to receive a charitable tax receipt for your donation. Thank you for your generosity!

## It's That Time Again!!

### Harcourt Memorial United Church Annual Report

by Anne Purkis, Office Administrator

Your assistance is needed to ensure Harcourt has a complete and accurate Annual Report!



The end of the year is rapidly approaching and with it comes the task of assembling Harcourt's Annual Report. Committee/Team Chairs and Group Leaders/Co-ordinators are asked to submit a brief report reflecting what happened on their committee/team or in their group during 2016. The information in these reports also assists in compiling the statistics asked for by the United Church of Canada. If you have offered a group, big or small be sure to include the numbers of the participants and, in the case of children and youth, the ages as well. Be sure to count the leaders, facilitators and organizers in those numbers.

### Report Guidelines:

- ✓ Please keep your submission to 1/2 - 3/4 of a page. Your article will be edited as necessary.
- ✓ Create your report as a word doc and use Arial 12 font. Please keep fancy formatting to a minimum as I will be re-formatting the reports so that they are all set-up the same way.
- ✓ Submit your report by email to [office@harcourtuc.ca](mailto:office@harcourtuc.ca) with the document attached.

Committee/Team Chairs: Submit a report that includes names of the people on your committee/team, the Chair(s) and some of your 2014 highlights. If you have members that have left or joined your committee/team during the year please include them with the date they left or joined.

Group Leaders/Co-ordinators: Submit a report that including the number of participants in your group, when you meet and some of your 2014 highlights.

The deadline is January 13... but why wait - do it now!

Need help? There are extra copies of past annual reports in the church office if you would like to see examples of past submissions or ask Anne for assistance.

**Change in Church Office Hours:** Please note that the church office will be closed on Mondays effective Monday November 28th, 2016. Anne will be in the office on Fridays, instead of Mondays. Office hours will be Tuesday to Friday, 9am-4pm, closed noon to 1pm.

**Here are some amazing facts from the United Kingdom about people who were very accident prone over Christmas!**

- 1) Hospitals reported 4 broken arms last year after cracker pulling accidents.
- 2) Eighteen people had serious burns in 1998 trying on a new sweater with a lit cigarette in their mouth.
- 3) Fifty eight people are injured each year by using sharp knives instead of screwdrivers.
- 4) One hundred and one people since 1997 have had to have broken parts of plastic toys pulled out of the soles of their feet.
- 5) One hundred and forty two people were injured in 1998 by not removing all pins from new shirts.





Presents

# Gala Dinner



Image by:  
Freepik

## Live Radio Show\* & Silent Auction

Sunday, DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>, Dinner at 5:00 pm,  
Live Radio Shows are at 2:00pm & 7:00pm

Harcourt Memorial United Church at 87 Dean Ave. Guelph

GALA TICKETS: \$50 per person OR \$450 for a table of 10  
INCLUDES: Chef Prepared 3 - Course Dinner & Radio Show

**\* IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: LUX PRESENTS HOLLYWOOD**  
by Working Reel Productions Inc.

Produced and Directed by John  
Snowdon and Buddy Brennan

**RADIO SHOW ONLY TICKETS: \$15.00 for Adults AND \$5.00 for Children**

**Tickets available through [www.rainbowchorus.ca](http://www.rainbowchorus.ca)**



# ***All Things Christmas Progress Report***

by Janet Webster



By the time you read this, the 2016 version of the *All Things Christmas* sale will be over for another year. The many elves will be busy with other tasks and hopefully, I can rest assured that the sale was a success again. As I write this before the publishing deadline I am reflecting on the many joys from trying to pull this together. It is wonderful to see people work together to make it happen and new connections made between volunteers.

There have been many laughs so far as well as concerns and questions as to whether we can do it again. Often I am on the receiving end of ideas, "Janet, we should do this.....:" and I must admit the ideas are wonderful and probably would add money to Harcourt coffers. The limiting factor is available people and resources. So, we have been working away at doing what we can, sending out press releases, flyers, posters, and recruiting people and supplies. However, we are a busy community with many calls on our time so other activities must (and should) take priority. For this reluctant, default coordinator (yours truly) that means blanks in the roster that I can only hope will be filled! I am always impressed with the way that busy people can fit in another task to support All Things Christmas. But then there are the unexpected gifts, such as the beautiful weather on the day we chose to fill the outdoor pots with soil. Another example of a surprise gift was the donor who rushed back after delivering soil etc. to announce that some arborists had just cut down a neighbour's blue spruce and we could harvest branches! And so it goes. I have one more week until I know if it works again but I trust in your gifts of time and talent. I am thankful that so many have put down their names to work at gathering greens, making arrangements, setting up donations, working in the lunch area and baking special treats. And if I have not acted on your wonderful idea, my apologies; the minds are willing but the workers are few. Perhaps you could start planning for an additional aspect next spring or summer??? Watch for a report on the final results in the January issue of the Herald.

## **CHRISTMAS RIDDLES**

What do you get when you cross vampires with snowmen? A: Frostbite

What do you get if you cross ducks with a piece of mistletoe? A: Christmas quackers

How much did Santa's sleigh cost? A: Nothing, it was on the house

What do you get after you eat Christmas decorations? A: Tinselitis

Where did the mistletoe go to become famous? A: Holly-wood

# A Stolen Childhood

by Edna Miller, Justice and Outreach

Ian and I spent last weekend at Five Oaks with survivors of The Mohawk Institute in Brantford. The workshop on Truth & Reconciliation included a tour of The Mohawk Institute, a Residential School until 1970. It was an incredible experience.

Can you imagine what it would be like to be a 5-year-old suddenly swept away from your family and transported miles away to a completely foreign place? There your hair is shorn if a boy, cut short if a girl. You are stripped of your clothes and of any possessions, scrubbed in a lye solution that burns and inflames your skin, and re-clad in clothes made by other students. Your food is buggy oatmeal mush three times a day. Your assigned bed is so close to the others you are lucky if you can get to it without crawling over other beds. If siblings happened to have come with you, they have been put in another part of the building. There is no one to speak to, for you are told you cannot use your own language and you do not know theirs. Not even your own name is left. A number is pinned on your chest. That is who you are now, a number. Nothing is familiar to you. There is no one to turn to. The only lullaby you hear at night is the sobs of the other children. Should you wet your bed that night, your face will be rubbed in the urine in the morning and the wet sheet draped around you to shame you at breakfast, or perhaps you are immersed in a tub of scalding water. How would you feel?

Until you are about eight years old, your mornings will be spent tending the garden. Older boys are sent to the fields and the barns while the girls are trained to be domestics, learning to scrub floors and do laundry with caustic solutions that eat away their flesh. You may learn a little dressmaking but no cooking for little if any of the produce grown at the school will make it to your table. That is sold in the town to pay the teachers' salaries. Three hours in the afternoon is then supposedly devoted to lessons.

As you settle in, you quickly learn that punishment is the order of the day. Any misstep is punished usually with the strap but other horrors are possible. How about being locked into the small cubicle at the foot of the stairs for a day or two? Maybe you are strapped into the electric chair. Yes, there was one used at the Mohawk Institute. And don't forget the screams you hear issuing from behind closed doors.

How could you forget how bad, even evil, you are? You are being told so over and over. Your parents are bad people. Your culture is the work of the devil. What is left of yourself when you feel nothing but shame for who you are?

If you manage to survive eleven years of such treatment, and more than 1,000 children at the Mohawk Institute didn't, who are you? How do you relate to the world? Knowing nothing but degradation and punishment, how do you treat other people, spouses, children?

If we are to understand our native peoples, it is important that we understand where they are coming from and the tremendous journey of recovery that lies ahead of them. If we learn nothing else, we need to recognize that it was our answers that put them where they are. Now we need to get out of the way and stop putting road blocks in their road to recovery. And they are recovering. The survivors we met are beautiful, courageous people, working together to rebuild constructive lives, recognizing what a long, hard journey they have ahead of them. How impressive it was to hear one of the survivors close our day with a fifteen minute litany of thanksgiving.

What can we do? Get to know our indigenous people. Learn about their struggles. Learn about the broken treaties that have been reneged on and about requested restitution for usurped lands. Learn about the contributions of native peoples to the very survival of Canada. Share your knowledge. Sign the petitions asking that the resources they need be provided. Reach out as a friend.



Mohawk Institute Residential School, 1932. Brantford, Ontario. WikiCommons.



# Announcements

## Passing



**CONN, Marion.** Died September 7<sup>th</sup> at Humber Heights Retirement Home in Etobicoke in her 92<sup>nd</sup> year. Beloved wife of the late Dr. Alan William Conn and proud mother of four daughters Nancy, Mary Ann, Wendy and Heather and many grandchildren. Born in Woodstock, Marian graduated in Household Economics from Victoria College, University of Toronto in 1947. She worked for two years at the Women's Institute, Department of Agriculture in Northumberland and Victoria Counties in Ontario. After her marriage in 1948 she volunteered at the Women's Auxiliary (Hospital for Sick Children) for over 25 years, sewing and crafting items for sale in their 555 Shop. She was a lifelong member of the United Church of Canada

and the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Canada or to the Schlegel-University of Waterloo Research Institute for Aging.



**SEFTON ELLIOTT, Adrienne.** Died Sunday October 23, 2016 surrounded by family and in the arms of her husband, Kevin Elliott. Adrienne was 41 years old. She was a survivor and was blessed in this life. Adrienne leaves in addition to her husband, her mother and father, Joan and Ted Sefton; mother in-law and father in-law, Lydia and Keith Elliott; brother, Harvey Sefton and his wife, Sue; brother-in-law, Chris Elliott and his wife. Please honour her legacy with a donation to the Juravinski Cancer Centre – Hamilton Health Sciences or become involved and help fight neuroendocrine cancer in any way you can. Fight with love. Donation cards are available at the funeral home, 519-821-5077, or

condolences may be made at [www.gilbertmacintyreandson.com](http://www.gilbertmacintyreandson.com).



**GRANT**, Donald Raymond. On November 3 at the Wellington Hospice in Guelph at the age of 95 after a short illness. Don loved his family, especially his wife Peggy (nee Margaret Warner 1923-2011). They leave sons Doug (Nancy Conn) of Toronto, Gord (Kathy) of Oakville, Ken of Campbellford and Al of London and numerous grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Salvation Army, Red Cross or a charity of your choice, would be appreciated. A tree will be planted in memory of Donald R. Grant in the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest, University of Guelph Arboretum. Dedication service, Sunday, September 17, 2017 at 2:30 pm.



**BRADLEY**, Sybil. Passed away peacefully on November 6th at Hospice Wellington, surrounded by her loving family. Sybil is now reunited with her beloved husband Des, her cherished son Graham and her baby daughter Lisa. Feeling her loss are her three girls she brought with her from Ireland: Rosemary (Fred), Elaine and Denise (Peter), also her daughter-in-law Patty (Graham) and her many grandchildren. As expressions of sympathy donations to Hospice Wellington would be appreciated by the family. Donations and condolences can be made online at [www.gilbertmacintyreandson.com](http://www.gilbertmacintyreandson.com) or at the funeral home.

## Baptism

On November 6<sup>th</sup>:

**RUTLEDGE**, Landon Charles Nodwell. Born April 2016 to Lindsay Nodwell Rutledge and Mathew Rutledge.

**GASIOR**, Paige Catherine Maria. Born August 2016 to Beth and Michael Gasior.

**HEWSON**, Adelyn Isabel. Born December 2015 to Hilary Lockie and Tom Hewson.

**LAKATOS**, Levi John Cooper. Born May 2016 to Stephanie DiRaddio Lakatos and Philip Lakatos.

## Birth

**MARTIN**, Elijah Joshua, son of Brian and Heather Martin, brother of Liberty and Caleb and grandchild of Steve and Marilyn Fraser.



## Visions of Christmas past











## Minutes for Mission

### Fighting to Get Back to the Sea

On December 26, 2004, one of the deadliest natural disasters in human history occurred when an underwater earthquake near Indonesia triggered a massive tsunami. In India, mostly in Tamil Nadu state, over 18,000 people were killed and more than 600,000 displaced.

Ten years later, people in Tamil Nadu are experiencing what they call “a continuation of a permanent tsunami” due to large corporate projects. In Kari Kattu Kuppum fishing village, for example, villagers were relocated after the tsunami’s destruction. Today, their path to the sea is barred by a large wall built by a private company that wants to build on the prime land on the other side, close to the sea.

This means villagers have to carry their nets, boats, and other equipment over 2 km to reach the sea, a journey along which they are often harassed by police. Community leaders have even been arrested at the instigation of the private company, they say, because they are fighting against the wall in court. One community leader who had five cases filed against him and has been arrested once says the problems they now face are worse than the tsunami. The community originally had 350 families; less than 50 remain today.

Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation helps local villagers bring their cases to court across Tamil Nadu. We are thankful our gifts for Mission & Service support this justice work.

Please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith.

We wish you a safe and happy  
holiday season – full of reflection,  
joy, peace and hope



## Harcourt Calendar – December 2016

Updated November 15, 2016—[www.harcourtuc.ca](http://www.harcourtuc.ca) for most up-to-date information

### Thursday December 1

8:45am Mindstretch [C]  
9:30am Stroke Recovery Executive [F]  
1:30pm Park'nDance [G/F]  
7:00pm Sharing Evenings [F]  
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

### Friday December 2

9:30am Chancel Committee [S]  
7:00pm Junior Youth Group [G/F]

### Saturday December 3

6:00pm Saturday Night Suppers  
7:00pm Guelph Youth Singers Concert [S]

### Sunday December 4

9:00am Worship [C]  
10:30am Worship [S]  
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]  
2:00pm Rainbow Chorus "It's a Wonderful Life Radio Show" Fundraiser [S]  
5:00pm Rainbow Chorus Dinner and Gala [G]  
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus "It's a Wonderful Life Radio Show" Fundraiser [S]  
7:30pm High School Youth Group [202]

### Monday December 5

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]  
6:50pm Communications Committee [L]  
7:00pm Scouts [G]

### Tuesday December 6

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings  
6:45 Cubs [G]  
7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

### Wednesday December 7

9:30am Lightshine Singers [F]  
10:30am Spiritual Life Committee Advent Series [202]  
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]  
6:30pm Guides [F]  
6:45pm Beavers [G]  
7:00pm Creative Intentions [C]  
7:30pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

### Thursday December 8

8:45am Mindstretch [C]  
1:30pm Park'nDance [G/F]  
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

### Saturday December 10

10:00am Sacred Circle Dance [G]

### Sunday December 11

9:00am Worship [C]  
10:30am Worship [S]  
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

### Monday December 12

9:30am Quilting Group [G/202]  
11:45am Carolyn Harcourt Women's Fellowship [F]  
5:30pm Pride and Prejudice [202]  
7:00pm Scouts [G]

### Tuesday December 13

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings  
11:30am Stroke Recovery Lunch [F]  
6:45pm Cubs [G]  
7:00pm Worship Committee Meeting [C]  
7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

### Wednesday December 14

7:00am Men's Group [F]  
9:30am Lightshine Singers [F]  
10:30am Spiritual Life Committee Advent Series [202]  
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]  
6:00pm Preschool Toywash [K]  
6:30pm Guides [F]  
6:45pm Beavers [G]  
7:00pm Ministry & Personnel Committee [L]  
7:00pm Property Committee [C]  
7:30pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

### Thursday December 15

8:45am Mindstretch [C]  
1:30pm Park'nDance [G/F]  
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

**Friday December 16**

7:00pm Junior Youth Group [G/F]

**Sunday December 18**

9:00am Worship [C]

10:30am Worship [S]

10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

7:30pm High School Youth Group [202]

**Monday December 19**

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]

7:00pm Women's Spirituality [C]

7:00pm Scouts [G]

**Tuesday December 20**

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings

6:45pm Cubs [G]

7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

**Wednesday December 21**

9:30am Lightshine Singers [F]

10:30am Spiritual Life Committee Advent Series  
[202]

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

6:45pm Beavers [G]

7:00pm Council Meeting [C]

**Thursday December 22**

1:30pm Park'nDance [G/F]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

**Friday December 23**

**Church Office Closed at Noon**

**Saturday December 24****Christmas Eve**

4:00pm Family Worship "Come Celebrate the  
Christmas Story" [S]

10:00pm Worship "Candlelight, Carols &  
Communion" [S]

**Sunday December 25****Christmas Day**

**No Sunday Service**

**Monday December 26- Saturday December 31**

**Church and Office Closed**

**Sunday January 1**

**10:00am Worship Service [S]**