

The Harcourt Herald

The life and work of Harcourt Memorial United Church, Guelph, Ontario, Canada December, 2017

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

87 Dean Avenue, Guelph, Ontario N1G 1L3 Office Hours:
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> Ministers: The People with Reverend Miriam Flynn (ext. 222) Miriam@harcourtuc.ca Reverend Jim Ball (ext. 223) Jim@harcourtuc.ca Director of Music Ministry: Alison MacNeil (ext. 225) alison@harcourtuc.ca

Church Administrator: Anne Purkis Custodian: Darko Cikovic

The Harcourt Herald

Published 10 times each year by the Communications Committee

Your contributions are welcome! Deadline: 20th of each month Sept-June

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sunday December 24 9:00am Chapel Gathering 10:30am Worship for all ages in the Sanctuary 4:00pm Family Service in the Sanctuary 10:00pm Candlelight, Carols and Communion in the Sanctuary

Monday December 25

(Church Office Closed) 10:00am Christmas Day Lay-Led Service in the Sanctuary

Tuesday December 26-Saturday December 30

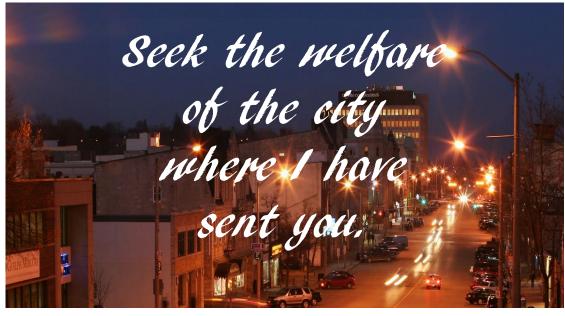
(Church Office Closed)

Sunday December 31

10:00am Worship in the Sanctuary



The Ministers' Quill



I found a photo online. It shows a city streetscape. It is a world of concrete, steel and people. Superimposed on the image are the words, "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you." The words come from the prophet Jeremiah. Chapter 29.7. The photo does not include the full text, but it shares enough to make the point.

Jeremiah is speaking to Judeans who have been marched into exile. Their "glorious past" in Jerusalem has been lost. The people feel sad and defeated. They are disoriented in the new landscape of Babylon. Jeremiah addresses their dejection and seeks to turn their negative thinking around. He suggests that their experience of dislocation and relocation is not meaningless. It can have purpose. But they will find this purpose, he says, only by serving the welfare of the new city in which they find themselves.

The lessons for the Church in our times are many and obvious. Having lost the "glorious past" of Christendom - that is, the booming churches and Sunday schools of the nineteen fifties and sixties (our 'Jerusalem') - the mainline Protestant Church of the twenty-first century has been exiled and relocated to a strange land. It is a new world dominated by secularism and technology. But we need not remain dispirited or immobilized by the grief of this change. There is purpose for us in this new landscape. And hope. We will find it by embracing and serving the new reality. God sends us to do this very thing - to love the streets where we find ourselves, and the people who live here. We are called to serve life where we are.

Jeremiah got this. Our ancestors who founded the Brooklyn Mission got this. Those who created Harcourt got this. Those who founded the Chalmers Community Services

ministry got this. And those who continue to strengthen these and other ministries in this city get this too. It is old wisdom. And a reason for gratitude.

May such wisdom continue to find us and inspire us this season, leading us forward like Christmas light. Blessings! Jim

Photo by: TheGiantVermin at English Wikipedia on Wiki Commons

A woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas Cards. "What denomination?" asked the clerk. "Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?" said the woman. "Well, give me 30 Catholic, 10 Baptist ones, 20 Lutheran, and 40 Presbyterian."

When does Christmas come before Thanksgiving?

Answer: In the Dictionary

How did Darth Vader know what Luke Skywalker was getting for Christmas?

Answer: He felt his presents

by Lorraine Holding, Chair of Council

My article is written one day following our covenanting service with Miriam and Waterloo Presbytery. This special celebration officially marks our ministry together for the service of God at Harcourt. I offer a sincere 'thank you' to all who contributed to worship and the reception. Miriam is a valued team minister among us.

November's Council meeting focused on three significant topics:

• Dave Hume updated us on the construction project and resulting increase in costs. We approved that the additional cost of approximately \$90,000 can be released from the Property Pillar held by the Trustees. We also started conversation about the possibility for a campaign to replenish/grow the four Pillars: Property; Outreach; Music & Arts; Spiritual Life & Education.

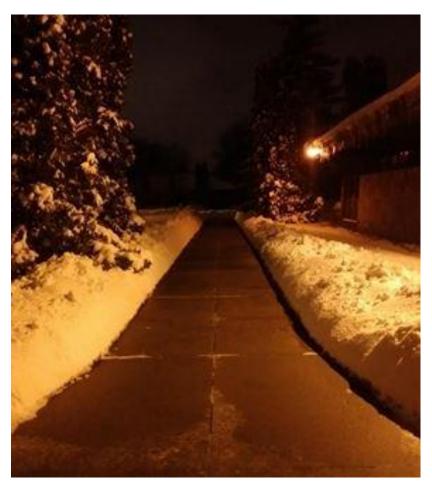
• After thorough discussion, our preparation over several months to create a new Harcourt Rental Policy culminated in 'approval in principle pending final editing'. It documents responsibilities, guidelines, scope and procedures related to rentals of our space where rent is charged or sponsored. It is grounded by our Mission, Core Values and Affirming Ministry. It incorporates detailed work completed by Property Committee, the ad hoc group who focused on use of church facilities for marriages, funerals and other worship gatherings, and Council.

• We received and discussed the proposed 2018 budget, presented by Kent Hoeg on behalf of Finance Committee. We learned that the 2017 year-end projection looks positive. Budget planning will continue through the next few weeks. Our stewardship of time, talents, energy and money is so important to carrying out our ministry as a Congregation.

The Season of Advent has arrived. We have accomplished much this year, for which we offer deep gratitude. The generosity shown week-by-week is tremendous, both internally as a Congregation and externally through our outreach locally and beyond. We are blessed as a community of faith.

Blessings for hope, peace, joy and love as we prepare for a meaningful Christmas. With faith and hope.

New to Harcourt?



Join us on our journey of faith

Church office Tel: 519-824-4177 E-mail: office@harcourtuc.ca Seek – Connect - Act

Committee & Group News

Let Us Rejoice With the Beauty of Flowers

by Ann Middleton, Chair of the Chancel Committee



It's time to think about beautifying the church with Christmas poinsettias and azaleas. We will have flowers in the sanctuary Dec. 17 and 24. If you will be away for Christmas, you can take your flowers home after the Dec. 17 service or we can arrange to have them delivered to a retirement home. Remember a loved one or celebrate a special event with flowers for Harcourt. Contact Ann Middleton before Dec. 12.

Remembering With Music – Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship by Jean Hume

The Caroline Harcourt members had their very own Veteran present at their November

Meeting. Traditionally, the group has a special speaker at its annual Remembrance meeting who has had a personal connection with a war. This November, Ben Fear presented the background information on the music that was played in the war years over the centuries. He made us aware of the difference between the music played for Military use and the sentimental music that touched the soldiers when they were ill and homesick or heart broken. He played samples of the music which was very



Ben Fear and Leone Sutor reflect on war-time music

helpful and told the history behind the compositions. He had Lynn Hancock lead in to his talk with a left right drum beat. He had Leone play the familiar tunes while he led the group in singing. Following his presentation, he was asked for his personal story, and an emotional story it was. It was a very memorable meeting. The Christmas meeting of the Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship will be on **Monday, December 11th** in the Friendship room. Punch will be served at 11:30 am. Following your bag lunch, Joan Charlesbois will sing and play Christmas music with a Cape Breton flare. The members will join her for the familiar tunes. There will be a short devotional. CHRISTMAS GOODIES will then be shared along with tea. The committee welcomes contributions of a few of your favourite treats. All women and friends of the church are welcome. Do come....

Ho! Ho! Ho! Great Books In Our Library For Christmas Reading

by Mary-Lou Funston, Library Committee



BRAND NEW IN THE LIBRARY:

The following books have all been recently acquired. We (the Library committee) hope that you will check them out. As usual, they will be on the display shelves for some weeks.

THE CHURCH AND OTHER CULTURES AND RELIGIONS

<u>Traveling with Pomegranates</u>
 Sue Monk Kidd & Ann Kidd Taylor
 818 KID
 A mother and daughter journey to the sacred
 place of Greece, Turkey, and France

232 AMA

- ^{*} <u>Understanding JESUS</u> Joe Amaral Cultural Insights into the words and deed of Christ
 - Sid Roth 211 ROT Bridging the Gap Between God's Children "The Body of the Messiah is complete only when Jews and Christians converge."

269WIL

GOD WORKING IN OUR LIVES

- Playing God Norman Willis
 Overcoming the Torment of Unforgiveness
- * <u>Fathered ... by God</u> Steve Bydeley 269 BYD Resolving Life's Hardships
- * <u>What God Can Do</u> Deborah Mathis 212 MAT ".... this collection depicts the soft and subtle miracles that most people chalk up to mere coincidence."

"HOW TO" BOOKS

* <u>Inner Guidances and the Four Spiritual Gifts</u> Howard Wimer 235 RIM How to Maximize Your Intuition and Inspirations to Become More Creative, Successful and Fulfilled

*	Soul on Fire Stephen Arterburn Discover Your Life's Passion and Purpose		248 ART	
*	The Spiritual Leader's Guide	to Self-Care	Rochelle Melander	150 MEL
MEC *	DITATION SUGGESTIONS Forty Days to a Closer Walk v The Practice of Centering P		J. David Muyskens	248 MUY
*	<u>Let Your Life Speak</u> Listening for the Voice of V	Parker J. Palm ocation	er	248 PAL
*	slow downJoseph M. Champlin242 CHAfive-minute meditations to de-stress your daysThe Afterword states – "Now, with the 101 days completed, if you have not experienced somereduction in stress and an increase of stillness within your soul, write to me and I will send you a checkrefunding the price of this book."			
STO *	RIES – REAL AND IMAGINED Go Back and Be Happy The real-life story of the au odds has fully recovered.	Julie Papievis thor who suffer	ed a traumatic brain injury ir	218 PAP a car accident and, against all
*	<u>Behold a SON</u> Reuben's Stor The story of a young boy w		Carol Ferguson his leprosy by Jesus.	FIC FER
*	The Great DivorceC.S. LewisFIC LEWAn allegory in which the author finds himself in a bus which plies between Hell and Heaven – a journey anyone can take. (A personal note: This is one of my favourite books by one of my favourite authors. I found it very thought provoking).			
AND MORE "HOW TO" – BUT WITH A DIFFERENCE! * <u>The Love Dare</u> From the hit movie FIREPROOF 242 KEN This book "is a 40 day challenge for husbands and wives to understand and practice unconditional love."				
*	Living with Purpose in a Wo Spiritual Encouragement fo		Missy Buchanan	242 BUC

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

No, I haven't forgotten about Advent and Christmas. All the relevant books are on the "Christmas" shelf (under the Bio shelf). Please browse and borrow as you please!

Finance Update – It's Important!

by Kent Hoag, Finance

Two very important announcements from your friends in the Finance Committee:

- 1. At the end of October, we are running almost even! Our expenses are closely matching our income. This is great news, but we have two challenging months ahead of us. The months of November and December have traditionally been months where our congregation has dug a little deeper and helped us move to a positive position. Please know that every dollar is important to the life of this church. Please continue to give generously.
- 2. We have been so lucky to be blessed with great volunteers at Harcourt. Right now we are in need of a Payroll Administrator. The Payroll Administrator's job has gotten very streamlined in the last few years, as much of our payroll is handled through ADP. The Payroll Administrator merely needs to coordinate with ADP payments for our salary employees and handle payroll for our hourly employees (including year-end T4's). It's not that bad! Please don't hope that someone else will step up and volunteer.

We need YOU!

Please contact Kent Hoeg at <u>hoeg@rogers.com</u> and I will be happy to provide you the job description and get you trained by our current Payroll Administrator. We need someone immediately, please help us get our employees paid!

Want A Peaceful Moment – Why Not Join Us?

by Andre Auger, Spiritual Life Committee

Need some quiet time after the hustle and bustle of Christmas Eve and Christmas morn? Need a fresh slant on the Christmas story to rekindle your spirits? Why not join us in the Chapel on Christmas morning at 10:00 AM for a Taize-style worship... A bit of (non-carol) singing, some readings, a time to meditate, and, if you so choose, an opportunity to share after the service. Brought to you by the Spiritual Life Committee.

Thank you ... God loves you

by Peter Jackson, Spiritual Life Committee

I had a mystical experience at the end of September. It came about through a guided meditation at the congregational retreat. The meditation was about being God's beloved. We sat quietly, listening to a recording of the warm, gentle voice of Rabbi Ted Falcon coming through the loudspeaker. Falcon oozes sincere openness to Spirit's presence, and is a man of refreshingly few words. 'Breathe ... feel what it is like to be in your body ... if you find tension, just say 'thank you' ... and perhaps say 'God loves you' ... don't try to change anything ... just acknowledge and be thankful.' The meditation moved deeper: 'as you encounter thoughts from your restless mind ... don't feel obliged to engage them ... just say 'thank you' ... and perhaps 'God loves you'. After ten minutes or so, I was in deep peace.

And then BAZOOM! Something went wrong with the technology and we were rudely catapulted into a lively babble of voices arguing energetically with each other. The loudspeaker was turned off and we were invited to move on to the next activity. I could not do that. I felt jangled and angry. I was ready to abandon the meditation and enjoy my indignation at the rude disturbance. But then I caught myself: maybe I just needed to say 'thank you' to my anger, and 'God loves you'. I did that, and after a few minutes regained deep peacefulness.

In that peacefulness came a reminder: We don't need a recorded voice, however inviting, to guide us through meditation. I don't need someone else, recorded or in person, to give me permission, or a book to give me a formula. I already have within me a centre from which God speaks to my ego, telling me over and again: 'thank you', and 'I love you'.

I basked in the assurance of being God's beloved, and spent a few minutes just watching the beauty of shadows dancing on the floor as the sun shone through the window. Moving outdoors, I felt the warmth of the sun and the kiss of the wind on my face, looked up and saw the sky looking back at me. Looking down I saw the indescribable beauty of flowers and leaves saying 'look at me, stroke me, love me.' For about half an hour I was in a transport of delight, knowing myself to be part of a universal circle of love.

Moments such as this are mystical - you experience oneness with God. They are precious; their memory can warm you for a long time afterwards and inform how you live your life. These moments cannot be forced, they come in their own time, in their own unique way. Perhaps, though, you might benefit from meditating with Ted Falcon. The guided meditation is part 5 of his series "Paths To Awakening" under the Podcast button at <u>RabbiTedFalcon.com</u>. Or you can go direct to the audio podcast at

http://s101.podbean.com/pb/8f00301de0e870dc6a4e1bea052a4696/5a09ab02/data3/fs58/5 48904/uploads/2ndPtoAPart5MediCut2.mp3

Justice and Outreach at Harcourt

by Edna Miller, Justice and Outreach Committee

Did you miss the **Blanket Exercise**? Those who attended found it a very moving informative experience, but hardly a warm cozy one. The blankets covering the floor of our ignorance were pulled back to expose how little we knew about what happened to our Indigenous brothers and sisters to leave them where we find them today. The hand they extended to our forbearers in friendship and hospitality was squeezed in a bone crunching grasp. It was a grasp that claimed the legal right to take what we wanted from anyone who was not Christian. So little by little we took what we wanted until the Indigenous peoples were left with our spoils and whatever funding we chose to give them when we didn't have need for it elsewhere. Amid tears, drumming and 'smudging', our Indigenous guests shared with us a little of what it means to be an Indigenous person living in Canada today. It was a very moving experience and one that left us very aware of how much more we need to learn if we are to find our way back to mutual respect, friendship and partnership.

The Justice and Outreach Meeting: On November 12th eight people attended a meeting scheduled for anyone interested in standing with both our Indigenous neighbours and against local poverty. We realized how uninformed we are about both issues and acknowledged the need for continuing education. Twelve to fifteen percent of Guelph's population live in poverty. *How much would you earn if the only job you could find only paid minimum wage? Where would you find housing? How much of your income would it take? How would you eat if the accommodations you found had no cooking facilities? What does it really mean to be poor in our city?* Watch for opportunities to explore such issues in the spring.

Advent Appeal: Those attending the Blanket Exercise were told of some of the abysmal conditions facing the children of Attawapiskat which resulted in donations being made to buy basketball equipment for their ill-equipped community centre. They need not only balls and sports shirts but sport shoes too. These children have so little. Kairos has 'picked up the ball' and has made providing basketball equipment to the Attawapiskat a Kairos project. In response to our concerns about Indigenous children, and as a partner of Kairos, monies raised by Harcourt United Church's annual Christmas Appeal will go toward this project.

Petitions: It has been suggested that Harcourt has need for a 'petitions table' to be available on Sunday mornings. Since the United Church often expresses concerns about issues of justice, the environment and Indigenous Peoples, to name a few, requests to circulate and sign petitions association with these issues are regularly received. Our partners, including Kairos, also send requests for calls to action through petitions. In order to respond to these requests, we need someone willing to co-ordinate this. If this activity appeals to you, please contact Edna Miller or Arlene Davies Fuhr through the Church office.

Disappointing Discoveries Dampen Pipe Dreams Accessible Washroom Update

by Dave Hume, Chair of the Committee

The Washrooms on the Sanctuary level have progressed to the point at which the walls of the rooms have been erected, the electrical conduits have been installed, the wallboard has been installed and the interiors of the rooms have been painted, including a base coat and a finishing coat. The plumbing is complete but the toilets and sinks have not been installed. The floor tiles were laid today (Nov. 20) in the two washrooms. The next steps in the new washrooms will be to install wall tiles, insert a frosted window and install the toilets, sinks, mirrors and doors. Two major problems have arisen during the contract. One is asbestos. The other is a broken sanitary sewer pipe under the Greeting Place. The design of the project was to take the effluent from the new washrooms through the boiler room and hook up the plumbing to the existing sanitary sewer that runs out of the Manna Storeroom, under the Greeting Place, and hooks into the sanitary sewer that goes out the west side of the Sanctuary to Dean Avenue.

There was asbestos in virtually all the plumbing joints in the boiler room and no plumbing could occur until those joints were fixed, nor did the Building Committee want Darko working in that environment. The next problem was that there was asbestos in the flooring in the downstairs women's washroom. When the concrete floor was cut, the asbestos was exposed and that floor had to be replaced too. Then it also was discovered that there was asbestos in the mastic floor tile in the lower-level Pre-School room. It was decided to replace that tile with asbestos-free ceramic tile. Most of that flooring has been installed.

When the downstairs women's washroom was put back together, the toilets did not flush properly. By using in-pipe video cameras, the plumbing company found that the cast iron sewer pipe under the Greeting Place was broken and the pipes on either side of the break were no longer aligned. At that point, it was decided to hook the new and older sewer pipes into the sanitary sewer that runs out from the newer men's and women's small washrooms to the west of Darko's utility room. That sanitary sewer was installed at a shallower depth than the older plumbing so there was not sufficient "fall" so the bypass around the broken line could work. That necessitated digging up the PVC pipes from these newer washrooms and lowering them about 2 feet so there was sufficient fall.

The next step is to run the lowered pipe through the foundation wall and hook it up to the sanitary sewer going to Dean Ave. This past week a company from London was successful in plugging the outer end of the broken pipe so it did not have to be dug up. It is still necessary, however, to dig down to where the lowered pipe will go through the foundation and then hook the lowered pipe into the sanitary sewer going to Dean Avenue. The current arrangements are that the excavation will be dug on Wednesday (Nov. 22) with a big vacuum truck parked on the street, a steel retaining enclosure will be lowered into the excavation to protect the plumbers and they will hook up the PVC sanitary sewer. Currently, only 3 of the 9 toilets are functioning until the pipes are hooked up, so here's hoping the hookups are done before the big K-W Symphony event this coming Friday

The date now given by the contractor is January 17, 2018. The fourth billing from the contractor was approved by the architect today. The estimated total cost on that billing is now \$261,925.21. We would get 50% of the HST back, which would bring that figure down to \$246,858.72 but there also will be additional architect's fees yet to come. Total actual expenditures to date have been \$188,473.81, including HST.

At its last meeting, Church Council authorized the Trustees to release an additional \$90,000 from the Property Pillar, beyond the amount previously authorized by the congregation. This amount would still leave the required amount in the Property Pillar for unexpected capital costs.

The Washroom Building Committee minutes of their November 3rd meeting also say; "It was agreed that some of the incurred costs are a direct result of the construction of the new washrooms while some of the incurred costs are a result of addressing other issues (i.e. a broken sanitary sewer under the Greeting Place and asbestos abatement in 3 locations) that were discovered during the course of the construction but were not a direct result of the construction of the new washrooms".

The Washroom Building Committee also proposed, and Council agreed, that an Appeal should be conducted in 2018 to rebuild the Pillar funds.



Men's Group will resume on January 10, 2018 for our first meeting in the new year. The speaker for the January meeting will be Sandy Middleton on the topic "What- ifs?" (A life retrospective.)

Community News

A Visit to the Walking with Our Sisters Art Instillation by Arlene Fuhr

In a cavernous space within The Gathering Place on the Six Nations reserve, the creative and artistic tops of moccasins are laid out in a huge broken circle protected and bounded by sacred cedar. The moving, heart-wrenching exhibit is a collaboration of over 2 000 moccasin tops, known as vamps, tongues, or uppers, that are intentionally not sewn onto actual moccasins. The fact they are only the tops powerfully and symbolically represents the unfinished lives of these women. In Canada, over the last 30 years there are more than 1 200 missing or murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people who have disappeared or been murdered. And, sickeningly, the problem is ongoing.

As I walk in stocking feet on the red fabric border that has sage and cedar beneath it, deep love, great loss and sadness wash over me. The tragedy seeps into my soul. I grieve. We live in a society where indigenous women vanish without a trace and so little attention is paid to this issue by the media, the general public, the justice system or the politicians.

Walking with Our Sisters honours and respects the lives of women who have died as a result of prejudice through the most heinous crimes. These women are someone's sister, mother, daughter, cousin, grandmother, aunt, friend and lover. They are cared about and loved and now they are missing... but they are certainly not forgotten. These lives that have been cut short leave a hole in so many hearts.

As I move through the exhibit, I carry some tobacco. Tobacco is a sacred plant for many indigenous people and it is often used in ceremonies and for prayers. The air is full of hauntingly beautiful traditional songs from many different indigenous nations that are sung in various languages. In the centre of the instillation stands two eagle staffs that come to the exhibit as a result of a dream. One eagle staff represents the missing women. The other is for women who have been murdered. Family members hang feathers to honour their loved ones. Surrounding the eagle staffs are tiny, exquisite moccasin tops representing the numerous missing children or the many who died in residential schools.

Walking with our Sisters began in 2013 and will visit 30 communities until 2019. It is currently travelling across Canada so I encourage you to mention it to friends or relatives who live to the west of us. If you have an opportunity to see this exhibit in another city, please do so. You will find it an honour to stand with all those who have taken time to creatively remember loved ones who have left us - for it is clear that their spirits are among us still.

Chalmers Building Campaign: Respect and Dignity for All by Peter Gill

A number of people have asked how the Harcourt campaign is going and also about the campaign in general. So with the end of the year approaching I am delighted to say that the response from the Harcourt congregation has been tremendous. Approximately \$190,000 has been donated and pledged (with one bequest) and the campaign is almost exactly half-way towards its goal of \$750,000. We have not started the public phase of the fundraising and probably will not embark on that for several months yet as we are still developing and implementing campaign plans for individual churches which are strong supporters of CCSC.

All those associated with Chalmers are enormously grateful for the support we have received from the Harcourt congregation which continues to show a true commitment to faith in action.

For anyone still considering a donation and pledge, you can contact Chalmers at <u>community@chalmerscentre.ca</u> or by 'phone at 519-822-8778. You can also contact me at <u>peter.gillccsc@gmail.com</u> or by 'phone at 519-831-7486. Thanks you.

Seeing the Ordinary in an Extraordinary Way: William D. Lord Emm 6T3 and the Importance of Lifelong Christian Education

Submitted by Peter Jackson Reprinted from the Autumn Newsletter, ECC News, 2017 with permission of Victoria Alumni Office, University of Toronto

We value education," says William D. (Bill) Lord Emm 6T3, "and we value mutuality in education. We believe that it is essential to pass on to the next generation the information, values and processes that we believe they need to know." Such values and processes are tools that will serve people well over a lifetime, he says. There is a need for continuing—or lifelong—Christian education and learning. "Christian adult education has the power to inform, to shape, to form and to transform and move us to see the ordinary world around us in an extraordinary way," says Lord. To achieve this transformation, he believes we need to see teaching and learning through a new lens.

Education has traditionally been practised as a transfer of information from the competent to the uninformed. Lord refers to this as the "mug-and-jug" theory that posits



Harcourt's Bill Lord sits with the statue of Northrop Frye during his visit to Emanuel College to receive the Distinguished Alumni/ae Award in May

education as indoctrination. Also known as the "guru" mentality, the "mug-and-jug" theory affirms the idea that someone else has the truth. Lord believes that this type of teaching and learning, particularly in ministry, means that the search for truth is not a search within, but is an external one. "This mentality limits our understanding," says Lord, "and contains within it a set of assumptions about how people learn and about the purpose of learning. This can leave learners stranded with new information, but with no idea how to integrate it or how it will make a difference in their lives."

For Lord, learning is an internal process that is unique to each individual. He agrees with educators and scholars such as Virginia Griffin who have argued that "each of us is both a learner and a teacher." In some areas, he says, we teach others; in others, they teach us. One way of recognizing this duality in ourselves is to conceive of education as what people will learn, rather than what people will be taught. Once this shift happens, he says, the whole approach changes.

Lord makes a strong case for Christians to recognize themselves and others as both students and teachers of and for Christ, and he credits Emmanuel College for giving him the start on a "journey of lifelong learning." He graduated with an MDiv from Emmanuel in 1963 and was ordained the same year. He was called to serve at Plumas-Lakeshore Pastoral Charge in Plumas, Manitoba. At the time he believed he was committing himself to what he "thought would be pastoral ministry to retirement." Instead, he served there for two years and it was during this time that he was recruited to chair the presbytery's Christian education committee. The position included membership on a boys' camp committee—and serving as camp counsellor.

During a week of observation practice school in Winnipeg with the intermediateaged boys and girls, Lord "encountered the great possibilities for educational ministry." The experience moved him back to Toronto and, in 1965, he began serving as associate minister at Eastminster United Church. His primary role there was developing its Christian education program. While in this role, he attended a one-day continuing education event on adult learning led by Alan Thomas, then executive secretary of the Canadian Association of Adult Education and, later, chair of the Department of Adult Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). Lord describes that encounter with Thomas in this way: "On my journey from Jerusalem to Jericho, I fell

among educators." Thomas suggested that Lord consider taking courses at OISE and, in 1969, he enrolled whilst remaining a part-time consultant in Christian education at St. John's United Church in Scarborough. He completed his master's degree in adult education in 1971 and joined the staff as the conference minister for Christian development with the Toronto Conference.

In October 1985, he moved to the Toronto School of Theology (TST) as its director of continuing



Bill and his wife, Catharine (on his right) surrounded by friends and family who joined him to celebrate at his alma mater.

education. His former colleague and current TST director, Alan Hayes, says that Lord "built up probably the most effective ecumenical resource for continuing education for clergy and church leaders that we've ever had in Toronto. He had a deep respect for church leaders and a profound appreciation of the kinds of professional development that they needed and wanted. Because he was so widely respected and so well networked into the churches, he was always able to recruit the best teachers available for TST's programs of continuing education."

In 1986, Lord invited Morar Murray-Hayes and colleague Jack Roberts to join him to teach a course in multiple staff ministry, which they taught together for 13 years. Murray-Hayes says that Lord had "really good instincts for pastoral ministry." She describes his work at TST as "wonderfully creative," while as a person he was a "collegial, caring and discerning friend and teammate with a sense of humour that made teaching together fun." Our "evaluations were always highly positive," she remembers, "but we still updated and improved the course each year. Some folks returned when staff changed; others contacted us after as issues arose. Lord was a wonderfully creative director of continuing education at TST. He was responsive to the needs of graduates in the design of courses, was aware of how adults learned, and was always up to date on the literature."

Lord stayed with the TST until his retirement in July 2000, but he has remained committed to learning. During his career, he modelled life-long learning by directing and co-directing research projects, acted as a consultant, facilitated, led and taught workshops, seminars and university-level courses. He has also continued to publish scholarly articles and has written for various academic and theological journals. He has completed training in psychodramatic bodywork in psychotherapy and in the Ignatian spiritual exercises program, Anotation 19. He has also fulfilled all the course-work requirements for the OISE's EdD degree.

He has served on numerous committees and boards, including serving as a member of Victoria University's Board of Regents from 1978–1988 and from 1989–1994. He also has over 15 years of serving and leadership with the Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association (ECAA) and received an Arbor Award in 2000 as a commendation for his volunteer work with the College. From 1973–2008, he was a member of the Religious Education Association and an executive board member from 1981–1989. He was a member of the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education from 1981–2007, and served on its executive board between 1997 and 2000. Following his retirement, he served for nine years on the board—with three years as its chair—of Stonehenge Therapeutic Community, a treatment facility for severely addicted individuals.

Internationally, he served as president of the Society for the Advancement of Continuing Education, on the executive of the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education and as a member of the steering committee for the "Faith Development in the Adult Life Cycle Research Project." He has also participated at the national, conference, presbytery and local levels of the United Church of Canada. In short, Lord's research, work and impact both in and on continuing theological education have benefitted clergy, scholars and parishioners alike. For this and more, the College and ECAA celebrated him and his achievements with the 2016 Distinguished Alumni/ae Award. In his words of acceptance, Lord noted that he was deeply moved to receive this honour, and he believed it was an occasion to honour lifelong learning in ministry and faith development.





Planning for Your Health Care Future



If you were in the hospital, too ill/hurt to speak for yourself, who would make health care decisions for you?

Join us for this educational session to hear about:

Advance Care Planning Substitute Decision Making

Powers of Attorney

Health Care Consent

Date - January 14, 2018 Time – 1:30 pm Location – Harcourt Church Please Register – with Esther Devolin @ <u>ekdevolin@sympatico.ca</u> or 519-836-7675 Lots of free resources will be available!

Sponsored by GUM Pastoral Care Committee

Continuing a Journey with Indigenous Folks

by Arlene Fuhr

On Sunday, November 19, MANNA invited Marie and Robin McLeod back to Harcourt. We first met them when they shared in the KAIROS Blanket Exercise in October and we were impressed with their quiet, gentle spirits. Since we were interested in discovering more about Indigenous culture, we thought it would be great to continue our friendship. The morning



began with a 'smudging' ceremony. Smudging is a way to cleanse ourselves and enter into a sacred space. Robin told us about the medicine wheel with its four directions and colours (east-yellow, south- red, west-black and north-white). There are also four dimensions of true learning which represent the four aspects of every person's nature. These correspond to the cardinal points of the medicine wheel: spiritual, emotional, physical and mental.

Marie mentioned some of the important ceremonies and traditions like the sweat lodge and the sundance. Marie is a Cree from the Cold Lake area of Alberta who has recently moved to Limehouse. Marie did not attend residential

school though her brothers and sisters did. She mentioned how she had a dream and when she

shared it with an elder, the elder knew he was to give a special talking stick to Marie. It was this stick that Marie brought to our circle.

We had several opportunities to share in our circle where the words shame, guilt, hope, education and moving forward were voiced. It was wonderful to see our friends Marie and Robin again and hopefully there will be other opportunities for them to be with us. To them we say *miigwech* and thanks.



Children's Foundation Gift Cards



Once again this year, we are participating in the Adopt-a-Family program run through The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington. For the past few years we have donated gift cards that are given to teens, parents and young adults that are on their lists. They appreciate our participation to this worthy cause, as it fulfills a huge need. The recipients are also very appreciative as these cards may be the only thing they receive in this season.

The cards that are found to be most appreciated are \$ 25 cards from Stone Road Mall, Cineplex, Chapters, Shoppers Drug Mart and \$10 cards from Tim Hortons.

You can buy these cards yourself, or donate the money and the cards will be bought for you. We will be accepting orders or cards starting November 26th, between the two services and after the 10:30 and Manna services. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry in our community.

This year we will be taking information so you all receive a tax receipt for your donations. For more information please contact Merrill Pierce at <u>smpierce@sympatico.ca</u> or telephone 519-836-8867.



Vander Weyden: Journey of the Wise Men

Joan Barham's Pavlova Recipe



Pavlova is a New Zealand Kiwi classic – especially at Christmas. It is meringuebased dessert with a crisp outer shell and a soft, light inside which is then topped with lots of whipped cream and summer berries (in New Zealand Christmas is in the summer). Joan Barham's Pavlova is a favourite at Harcourt events. Here is how she makes it - as served at the Convenanting Reception for Miriam Flynn.

You need an electric beater and

preferably egg whites that are not too fresh. Fresh eggs result in a pavlova that 'weeps'. Fresh eggs from farmers can simply sit for some days in the fridge.

To prepare: (15 minutes)

Ingredients

6 egg whites – preferably at room temperature

Pinch of salt

1 and a half cups of castor sugar (I whizz regular granulated sugar in the food processor for about 15 seconds to make it finer. You can process more sugar than the recipe calls for and then store it in an airtight container for another recipe).

2 teaspoons of corn starch.

1 teaspoon of white vinegar

<u>Topping</u>

Half a litre of whipping cream Several containers of mixed berries, kiwi fruit, pineapple, whatever you fancy on your pavlova

<u>Method</u>

Heat the oven to 180 C degrees (350 F degrees) Place parchment paper (or other baking paper) on an oven tray (cover the tray) Place egg whites in the clean bowl of an electric beater Add salt and beat until the egg whites are stiff Slowly add the sugar with the beater running. Beat for about 10 minutes at high speed until the meringue is thick and glossy – it should be thick enough not to fall off the beater Lastly, whisk in the corn starch and vinegar.

Dollop the meringue onto the baking paper in a circle shape – about 16 inches diameter. Make a few swirls on the top rather than flattening to a neat tidy disk.

Bake at 180/350 degrees for 5 minutes then reduce the heat to 130 C degrees (165 F degrees) for a further hour. Turn off the oven and leave the pavlova to cool in the oven. Note: I turn off the oven after the 5 minutes at 180 degrees and leave the pavlova there for an hour and a quarter. Don't open the oven door while it cooks or it will crack! Pavlovas are forgiving about time. You can leave it in the oven until it cools or take it out and cool it on the counter. Every NZer has her/his own "way" of cooking and preparing this treat. Cook ahead and store in an airtight container, or freeze.

Crazy Family Christmas Games

Here are some family Christmas games that you might enjoy while you're waiting for your Pavlova to cool:

- 1. Christmas BINGO: Create Bingo cards with Christmas pictures and sparkles on them. Use wrapped chocolate kisses as Bingo chips.
- 2. Chinese Marshmallows: Open a package of tiny 'holiday' marshmallows and spread them onto a clean platter. With chop sticks in one hand, see who can pick up (not stab) the most marshmallows and place them in a glass in 30 seconds!
- 3. Candy Cane Dash: Place an unwrapped candy cane in your mouth and see how long it takes you to pick up another candy cane. Could be done in teams.
- 4. Christmas Face Hockey: Place a cookie on both your and your friend's foreheads. Without using your hands (or feet) try to move the cookies down your face by wrinkling your nose or wiggling your mouth etc. to make the cookie slide down into your mouth. Did you beat your friend? You score!!

Medicine and Miracles

by Joan Charlesbois

It has been 20 years ago this Sunday that I had stood up in church and announced that my son was gravely ill and was not going to make it. As a result, I placed an article in the Church newsletter about that experience. Today I had placed 2 pink roses on the church altar

to announce the adoption of twin 7-week old baby girls that my son has just adopted (He himself and his sister were also adopted). Their names are Vanessa and Aurora.

When Justin survived his ordeal I had told him that God wasn't finished with him yet and that there was more in his life he was meant to do. I do believe with the irony of coincidences of both Sundays that my son was meant to be the little girls' father. I have also enclosed the article from 20 years ago which many of you might remember. My family is truly blessed.



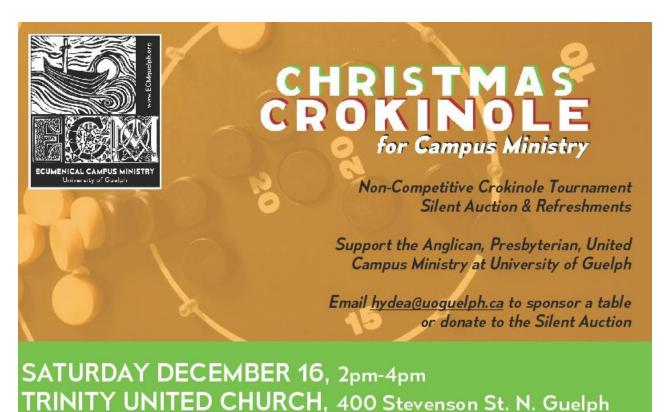
Original Notice (20 years ago)

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone for their prayers, support and encouragement during our son's illness. He has gone through rehabilitation and has recovered 100%; For those of you who did not hear my story I would like to briefly explain what happened during my son's stay in ICU"

We were called in on the Wednesday morning into the hospital to give permission to put our son on a respirator; my prayer for that morning was for God to do what was to come to pass as all other avenues had been tried' (It was my mother's birthday; she had died 15 years ago).

My father had done secret missions over the Rhine during World War 11 and at one point when all hope was gone that he would return; my grandmother awoke with a start and said a prayer for God to give her a sign that he was ok. She opened the bible and read a verse which in essence stated "you will go through rough waters, the rivers will rise up but they will not swallow you, you will go through the fiery gates of hell, but fear not for I am always with you". I did not know the verse and when I met my aunt whom I hadn't seen for 34 years she wrote and told me to read "ISIAH 43 verses 1-7"before the service began on the Sunday. Jean had also asked permission to use our story as part of the sermon for that Sunday; She closed her sermon with the verse ISIAH 43 verses 1-7. Allison had also changed the final hymn on that same day at 0930AM to 660 of the hymn book. The song is the first 4 verses of ISIAH 43. Each of these instances were independent of each other; Coincidence?? I think not; I rushed home to tell my husband what had transpired at church and to reassure him that Justin was going to be ok' We went to the unit that afternoon and as I sat holding Justin's hand and telling him that I loved him and we needed him he opened his eyes and tried to mouth the words "I LOVE YOU TOO". Isn't it ironic that the same verse was read by my grandmother 54 years ago when she thought she was going to lose her son and I was guided to read it when I thought I was going to lose our son?

Two days later he was taken off the respirator and transferred to the step down unit' One week later he went to Freeport for rehabilitation and was discharged two weeks later and returned home with no irreversible side effects. His diagnosis was "viral meningitis and encephalitis which has a mortality rate of 97%. I truly believe it to be a miracle and that GOD and my parents were instrumental in saving my son's life. So as long as we have faith and believe, everything has a way of working out as it was meant to be. Again from the bottom of my heart THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS. Joan Charlesbois.



A FUNDRAISER for ECUMENICAL CAMPUS MINISTRY at UoG REGISTER ONLINE at WWW.EVENTBRITE.CA



Join Us For



POTLUCK AND GAMES NIGHTS Saturdays, 5:30-9:30 pm In the Friendship Room

Come on your own, with your family or with friends

Next one: January 20th

Bring a hot or cold entrée or a dessert

Cards and board games will be supplied or bring your favourites



Announcements

Births/Adoptions:

We have 2 beautiful additions to our family. Our son Justin and his wife Jenn have adopted Aurora (R) and Vanessa. We are so proud and excited. Joan Charlesbois.

Baptisms:

November 12: Jemma Loretto Beucler. Parents Stephanie and Robert Beucler

Passing:



Chalmers, Marjorie passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Wednesday, October 18th in her 86th year. She was predeceased by her husband, Boyd Chalmers, and was a loving mother and grandmother. Marjorie's kind heart and love for life was obvious to anyone she met. She had a passion for golf and played almost every day – carding not one, but two holes in one! She bowled regularly and was an avid sports fan, never missing a tennis or curling tournament. When she wasn't watching or participating in sports, she was working on puzzles of all sorts, never satisfied until they were completed. The

family would appreciate donations to Hospice Wellington or the Canadian Cancer Society.



Giffen, Norman Warren passed away on Sunday October 8, 2017 surrounded by his family. Warren is survived by his wife Merle, and he was a much loved father and grandfather. Born in Brampton, Warren lived at the family farm in Caledon. In 1960 he moved his family to Guelph where he worked for MacKinnon Transport until his retirement. Warren was a very honest, caring, hardworking man that will be greatly missed by all that knew him. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to a charity most

meaningful to the donor.



Call of the Forest (Cartoon Above)

by Roz Stephenson

Harcourt's contribution to the Open Doors GUM weekend (which stretched into two weekends) was a Friday night screening of the movie "Call of the Forest; The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees" with Diana Beresford-Kroeger on November 17th. Merrill Pierce had seen this movie and thought it would be an excellent fit with Harcourt's concern for Creation. And it was! Merrill arranged for licensing, Jerry Daminato and Elizabeth Bone made sure it projected well. Joan Barham, Carolyn Davidson and Miriam clearly did a fine job of publicising the event as a hundred people showed up to learn about "forest bathing" and the important contributions made by global forests to all of us. We also learned how we could contribute to saving the global forest by each planting six trees! A children's film option was offered by MANNA (thanks Melissa!). After the movie, the audience was invited to the gym for hot cider, cookies and crisp apples, provided by Merrill, Roz, Joan and Miriam. A team effort..and a great evening!



The United Church of Canada

Drama: A Shoebox Filled with...

Skyler, Taylor, and Bailey, dressed in winter clothing, enter excitedly.

Bailey: Hey, look at all the shoeboxes! I wonder what's in them? Maybe we could give whatever is in them to people in need.

Taylor: Their problems are probably bigger than anything these boxes could hold. But let's see. (Opens a box and holds up the words "justice and partnership.") Justice is treating people fairly. Partnership is doing things together. To do justice, we need to be equal partners!

Skyler: But I heard about a program where people fill shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, toothbrushes, and stuff. That doesn't sound like partnership to me.

Taylor: That's because it's not. Partners would work with someone to fill each box—they would work together.

Bailey: Sometimes all the kids who get these shoeboxes really want is food, a roof over their head, and a job for their mom or dad. Instead they end up with stuff they don't need. Let me open a shoebox! (Opens one and holds up the Gifts with Vision giving catalogue.) Hey, what's this? (Looks through it.) Wow! There's a gift in here for youth to get warm winter clothes, a well project in the Congo, and lots more!

Skyler: My turn to open a shoebox! (Opens one and holds up the Minutes for Mission booklet.) Hey, this book has stories of all the ministries we support with Mission & Service! These are our partners. This is how we can do justice.

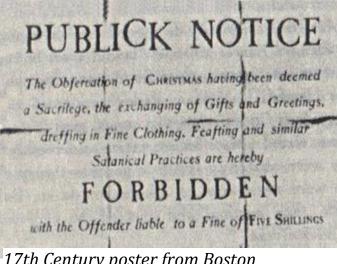
Bailey: That's cool, but I always liked shopping for those shoeboxes. It was fun to fill a shoebox for someone else.

Taylor: You know what? We can do both! We can support our local toy drive as well as Mission & Service, or we can give a Gift with Vision gift. We have so many ways to celebrate Christmas!

Bah Humbug! The History of Christmas is Full of Controversy by Gill Joseph

As we sort through the never-ending pile of U.S. presidential tweets this coming festive season, we might take pause to think about comments concerning a proposed "War on Christmas" that have begun to surface. Now, our family has always tried to keep commercialism to a minimum at this time of year and to focus more on making good family memories that include thinking of and giving to others less fortunate. Celebrating the birth of Christ is fundamental and we do that as we enjoy listening to the biblical readings of the Christmas story, singing carols that were learned in childhood and, yes, decorating our house in a special, but private, way. Having a host of friends with different (or no) religious beliefs and diverse cultural practices, we had long ago decided to be what we feel is respectful to others and to say either "Merry Christmas", "Season's Greetings" or whatever greeting might be most appropriate to the recipient. Thus we try to give each person the 'gift' of kind words with good wishes that are most appropriate for each of them. I know I'm not alone in this. But 'the Donald' and others object to efforts to be multicultural at Christmas and in particular, protest the politically correct language and lack of Christian symbolism that is observed in public settings such as in government buildings, schools and major retail stores.

However, controversy at Christmas, it seems, is not a new thing that has popped up in recent times with the rise of modern commercialism and increasing secularism. Ties to paganism and over-indulgence started off the debate. In the 17th century in England, for



17th Century poster from Boston Wiki Commons

example, the Puritan Christian rulers created and enforced laws forbidding the celebration of Christmas. including any dancing, dressing up, plays, gifts, games, singing of carols or other seasonal celebrations which they saw as a "frivolous embrace of earthly vices". In fact, this attitude and practice spilled over to the new American colonies, where between 1659 to 1681 pilgrims in the Massachusetts Bay Colony were heavily fined if they were not out working in their fields during Christmas. In the U.S. it took decades until Christmas became an official public holiday, which occurred first in Alabama in 1836. In Canada it wasn't an official public holiday until 1870. Until the Victorian era, Christmas was considered by Christians to be only of secondary importance to Epiphany and Easter. In fact, some schools in the U.S. held classes on December 25th until 1870.

There are Christian groups that do not celebrate Christmas even today – so we do not act as a unified group. For example, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh-day Adventists, United Church of God, some Churches of Christ and some Pentecostal churches do not recognize December 25th as a religious holiday for a variety of reasons. Kuruvilla (2016) suggests that what we celebrate as Christmas now in North America is really an integration of the many different beliefs and practices brought to the U.S. and Canada by the many people who came here over the years. The Germans, who introduced Christmas trees that became popular in England during Queen Victoria's reign. St. Boniface is said to have introduced the use of evergreens in connection with his efforts to Christianize the Germanic tribes in the 8th century. The British who started sending religious Christmas cards and popping crackers. The Dutch who brought stories about the Asian born St. Nicholas. The Jews whose Hanukkah celebration helped to establish the date that we celebrate as Christ's birth. Indeed, it was immigrants who made Christmas the meaningful Christian event it is today and who continue to contribute to a rich and vital tapestry of our societies today. Merry Christmas/Happy Hanukkah/Have a great Kwanzaa/Season's Greetings to all, and to all... a good night!

Kuruvilla, C. (2016). Christmas in America wasn't always the treasured holiday it is today. Huffington Post. December 21, 2016.

Melina, R. (2010). The surprising truth: Christians once banned Christmas. https://www.lkvescience.com/32891-why-was-christmas-banned-in-america-.html



Harcourt Calendar – December 2017 Updated November 14, 2017–www.harcourtuc.ca for most up-to-date information

Friday December 1 9:30am Chancel Decorating Committee [S]

Saturday December 2 6:00pm Saturday Night Suppers 7:00pm Guelph Youth Singers Concert [S]

Sunday December 3 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Worship [S] 10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

Monday December 4 Office Closed 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202] 7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday December 5 6:45pm Cubs [G] 7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday December 6 9:30am Lightshine Singers [C] 10:00am Vocal Meditation for Advent [C] 1:30pm Tai Chi [F] 6:30pm Guides [F] 6:45pm Beavers [G] 7:30pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday December 7 8:45am Mindstretch [202] 9:00am Stroke Recovery Executive [F] 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F] 7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday December 8 7:00pm Junior Youth Group [G]

Saturday December 9 10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202] 10:00am Sacred Circle Dance [G] Sunday December 10

9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Worship [S] 10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F] 7:00pm High School Youth Group [202/203]

Monday December 11 Office Closed 11:45am Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship [F] 7:00pm Women's Spirituality [C] 7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday December 12

6:45pm Cubs [G] 7:00pm Worship Committee [C] 7:00pm Finance Committee [202] 7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday December 13

7:45am Men's Group 9:30am Lightshine Singers [C] 10:00am Vocal Meditation for Advent [C] 1:30pm Tai Chi [F] 6:30pm Preschool Toy Wash [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 14 8:45am Mindstretch [202] 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F] 7:00pm Creative Intentions [F] 7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday December 15 7:00pm Junior Youth Group [G] Sunday December 17 9:00am Worship [C] 10:30am Worship Service [S] 10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F] 7:00pm High School Youth Group [202/203]

Monday December 18 Office Closed 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202] 7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday December 19 11:30am Stroke Recovery Christmas Lunch [F] 6:45 Cubs [G] 7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday December 20

9:30am Lightshine Singers [C]
10:00am Vocal Meditation for Advent [C]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
7:00pm Council Meeting [C]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:30pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday December 21

8:45am Mindstretch [202] 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F] 7:00pm Sharing Evenings [F] 7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Sunday December 24

9:00am Chapel Gathering [C]10:30am Worship for all ages [S]4:00pm Family Service [S]10:00pm Candlelight, Carols and Communion [S]

Monday December 25 Office Closed 10:00am Christmas Day Lay Led Service [S]

Tuesday December 26-Saturday December 30 Church/Office Closed

Sunday December 31 10:00am Worship [S]