



## St. Andrew's United Church Christmas Newsletter 2022

*Isaiah 9: 6-7 - For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Those are some pretty powerful names used to describe a child. The pressure to live up to those names. Much like the pressure we put on ourselves to live up to what we think other people want us to be to them, especially at this time of year.

Every year we work longer and longer hours so we can afford the latest cool gadgets, to find them broken the day after the warranty ends. Every year we spend countless hours baking and shopping so we can have the perfect Christmas, only for it to be over in a couple of hours. And every year we say we aren't going to do this anymore. Why? Why do we put that kind of pressure on ourselves? Who are we trying to please? Wouldn't our family have more time to spend with each other than gadgets? Didn't we learn that the last two years when we couldn't be together?

The names we give to the Christ child don't have to do with wealth nor material possession and neither do the best gifts we give each other. Gifts of love, understanding and our time these are the gifts that last.

So stop trying to live up to the names and status that others give, instead strive for the names that Jesus wants us to live up to, wonderful, peaceful, loving. Those are the titles that last!

So instead of all the running around, why not try slowing down and checking out the special Advent services, or join the crafty folks on Wednesdays for a time of quiet devotion and fellowship. Don't let chaos rule your life, instead let in the Prince of Peace reign forever.

David and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Silent and Peace filled Night.

Christmas Blessings,

*Rev. Cheryl Bolton, M.Div*

Ordained Minister, St. Andrew's United Church



## **Upcoming Services**

**Nov. 27/22 - Advent 1** - We HOPE you will join us for a traditional Greening of the Sanctuary as we prepare our hearts, minds and the sanctuary for the coming season.

**Dec. 4/22 - Advent 2** - Let's get Messy! We will start our service in the sanctuary with our usual PEACE filled service then move to the hall for Messy Church. We will decorate cookies, do some crafts, and relive the Nativity in a fun and unique way.

**Dec. 11/22 - Advent 3** - We will come together to spread a little JOY to those who may not be feeling the Joy of Christmas this year as we share in a White Gift service. Please consider bringing gifts of socks, mitts, hats and blankets to donate to the Destination Church.

**Dec. 18/22 - Advent 4** - We would LOVE to have you join us for communion as we gather even closer to that wonderful time when we celebrate the coming of God's love in the form of child.

**Dec. 24/22** - Join us at 5:00 p.m. to celebrate the birth of the much anticipated arrival of the Christ child, our Saviour. Lots of music, candle light and love to be shared.


**Dec. 25/22** - While there will not be an in-person service we would invite you to tune into our YouTube channel, our website or our Facebook page for a special Christmas Day special.

**January 1/23** - Happy New Year! Join us New Year's Day to celebrate a new year and a new beginning. If you have been participating in the Reverse Advent Calendar, we would ask that you bring in your non-perishable food items to help restock the shelves of the Food Bank.

**January 8/23** - Spread the light of God's love on Epiphany. Remember Jesus Christ is the light of the world!

***\*\*With the rise in COVID cases and other viruses we are suggesting that folks consider wearing a mask and sanitize your hands often while indoors. While not mandated this is the recommendation of the local Health Unit. Let's JUST spread HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE this Advent and Christmas season.***

# DECEMBER

<p>STYC-Tuesday-6-8 Alzheimers T,W, 9-4</p>	<p><b>Rev. Cheryl Bolton can be reached for Pastoral Care emergencies at 519-933-4964</b></p>			1	2	3
<p><b>Advent 2</b> 4 Sunday Service 10:30 am</p> <p><b>Messy Church</b> All are welcome!!</p>	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p><b>Advent 3</b> 11 Sunday Service 10:30 am</p> <p><b>White Gift Sunday</b></p>	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p><b>Advent 4</b> 18 Sunday Service 10:30 am</p> <p><b>Communion</b></p>	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>25</p>  <p>Merry Christmas</p>	26	27	28	29	30	31



**Christmas Eve Service 5pm**





## Reverse Advent Calendar



*After all the Christmas hampers go out, the food bank often finds their shelves quite bare but unfortunately the need is still there. Please consider participating in the reverse Advent Calendar this year. So how does the Reverse Advent Calendar work? I'm glad you asked! Instead of receiving a gift every day leading up to Advent, like a traditional Advent Calendar, you give a gift of a non-perishable food item. Just gather it in a box throughout the month of December and then on our January 1st service we will collect and bless the givings and deliver them to the Food Bank.*

*Thank you in advance for your generosity.*

<b>December 1</b> – box of cereal	<b>December 2</b> - peanut butter	<b>December 3</b> – stuffing mix	<b>December 4</b> - boxed potatoes	<b>December 5</b> - macaroni and cheese
<b>December 6</b> - canned fruit	<b>December 7</b> - canned tomatoes	<b>December 8</b> – canned tuna	<b>December 9</b> - dessert mix	<b>December 10</b> – jar of applesauce
<b>December 11</b> - canned sweet potatoes	<b>December 12</b> - cranberry sauce	<b>December 13</b> – canned beans	<b>December 14</b> - box of crackers	<b>December 15</b> - package of rice
<b>December 16</b> - package of oatmeal	<b>December 17</b> - package pasta	<b>December 18</b> – spaghetti sauce	<b>December 19</b> - chicken noodle soup	<b>December 20</b> - tomato soup
<b>December 21</b> - can corn	<b>December 22</b> - can mixed vegetables	<b>December 23</b> – can carrots	<b>December 24</b> - can green beans	