



WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

December, 2017

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The Light!

In him was life, and that life was the light of people. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

(John 1: 4, 5 New International Version)

**What came into existence was Life,
and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out. (John 1: 4, 5 The Message)**

A few years ago we had friends visiting in late November. On Friday night we went for a walk to see the lights of Simcoe. Unfortunately we were a day early as light up was the next night! On that Friday night we were not walking in complete darkness because the street lights lit our path but in terms of Christmas illumination we were if not in darkness at the least disappointed. It seems that the residents of Simcoe were abiding by the appointed date of light up even though Gary and I had seen some of their creativity on other walks. We jumped for joy when we saw a blue light on a porch and when the street lights changed from red to green! Our friends who had driven three hours missed the lights and they were so close, just a few hours away!

Light is so predominant in the Christmas stories. John describes Jesus coming as light. John does not have a birth narrative but describes the incarnation as a Life-Light to live by. Matthew records the light of the star that guided wise ones from the East to the place where Jesus lived. Luke tells us that the shepherds were amazed and fearful at the great the great light that accompanied the angel.

Light is a part of our Christmas. Whether it is the lights on the Christmas tree, the lights on outdoor trees or the lights on our houses, we surround ourselves with light. All of these lights remind us of the Light that came into the world so long ago. In Jesus was life and that life was the light of people. I marvel at the lights that I see as I travel. I rejoice in the lights because for me they point to the LIGHT that darkness has never understood and can never put out. Long after the light had supposedly been extinguished, the light still shines so that we can make our way through life. Although our friends missed the lights of Simcoe, they continue to live in the LIGHT.

This is my prayer for us here at Waterford United as we move through the interim process, that we will be beacons of light individually and as a church, extending the healing light of God to those who are our neighbours.

The Light of Christmas is still shining. We see it in many ways. It shines brightly in all who have experienced the LIGHT.

May the Light of God shine brightly in you this Christmas season,

Rev Mary Jo

THE SEASON LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS

TRUSTEES ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER

Sponsored by WUC Trustees

Thursday, November 30, 2017

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Tickets at the door are \$15 adults, \$7 children, free under age 5

Family Price (Mom, Dad and all the kids) available



PIE BAKERS NEEDED!!

“THE LIVING NATIVITY”

Thursday, December 21 at 4:30 p.m.

Live animals, actors and a narrator will bring the Christmas story to life in an outdoor setting (outside the Archives room on the south lawn on Main Street). The whole family will enjoy this special presentation! Hot Beverages and food afterward!



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS

- November 26 ***First Sunday in Advent***
- December 3 ***Second Sunday in Advent ~ White Gift Sunday***
- November 30 ***Annual Trustee Turkey Supper ~ 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.***
- December 10 ***Third Sunday in Advent***
- December 17 ***Fourth Sunday in Advent ~ Sunday School Presentation during service***
- December 21 ***“Living Nativity” ~ an outdoor Nativity story ~ 4:30 p.m.***
- December 24 ***Christmas “Evensong” Service ~ 5:00 p.m. NOTE – there will be no morning service***
- December 31 ***New Year’s “Eve” Morning Service ~ all are invited to wear formal “party wear” and enjoy a luncheon following the service with the theme of “Resolution”***

Please note that there will be one service on Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

This special “Evensong” service will be comprised of both traditional and contemporary elements, the celebration of communion, and the joy of music including choir presentations and congregational singing of well-known carols.

ATTENTION ALL KNITTERS!

A Mitten / Scarf Tree has been put up in the sanctuary where you can hang your donations of scarves, mittens, socks and hats to keep those less fortunate warm this winter.



GIFTS WITH VISION

Do you have someone special to you for whom you have difficulty choosing a gift? What about making a gift in that person's name? "GIFTS with VISION", a small giving catalogue from the United Church of Canada, has creative suggestions for needy people and / or projects in Canada and away, ranging in cost from \$10 to \$100. GIFTS with VISION catalogues are on a table in the auditorium.

OUTREACH NEWS

White Gift Sunday – Sunday, December 3. We are blessed by the generosity of this faith community and with that in mind, we are taking on one of our larger lists of sponsored families this year. We have applied to sponsor 6 singles, 5 couples and 5 families to the Salvation Army's Community Christmas Program. We will know more details of our Christmas hamper recipients by next week. If you know someone in our community who could use a bit of Christmas cheer, even just a card, please let us know. We want as many people to know the love of Christ as possible and Christmas is a great time to show that. Please wrap your gifts in white paper or bags as every gift is precious. The Outreach Committee gently encourages all donors to consider gift cards from Foodland or Pharma Plus or cash for our families to give them the gift of choice. Everything you give for our families is gratefully received, especially prayers. We will be assembling the hampers on Friday, December 15. If you would like to drop off gifts, please leave them in the crying room labeled **Christmas Outreach**.

The Outreach Committee would also like to once again raise awareness that there is a box in the lobby to collect items for the **Waterford Food Bank**. Toiletries and paper goods are in high need along with the usual staples of soup, pasta, cereal etc. John Procnier takes the boxes down regularly.



UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

To Santa's UCW Elves: The family suggested by Simcoe Pregnancy and Family Resource Centre for Waterford UCW support is fully looked after. A fresh list of that agency's needs will be soon be made available. For Wesley Urban Ministries, supported by the United Church there is a list of supplies they always need, including hats, mitts, gloves, scarves, socks, offered to any person who arrives in need. And hopefully most of you have a copy of the list of constant and ongoing needs by Wesley Centre as they reach out to and welcome needy individuals in Hamilton. It will be just as helpful for our women to gift the centre with these items as to try to gather gifts for their Christmas store, SO there are 2 boxes in the church parlour to receive your gifts for either the Simcoe Family Resource Centre, or Wesley Urban Ministries, and these boxes will welcome your offerings anytime up to / including Tuesday, December 12 UCW meeting... Santa's elves will deliver them the next day to where they are headed. **THANK YOU ALL !!**

Renew Your Observer Subscription – Cost is \$25, cheques payable to Waterford United Church. All current & new subscribers welcome! See Muriel Stetler.

ARE YOU ON PAR?

The PAR system (Pre-Authorized Remittance) is a program for the local church administered by The United Church of Canada. It is a convenient way to take care of regular church offerings month by month. Your bank account is debited on the 20th of each month and the church's account is credited to the General Fund, the M & S fund, the Building Fund, or a combination of these – whatever you choose.

The process is simple. See Diane Holden in the office for an Authorization Card, fill it out, attach a void cheque and know that your regular support allows the church to have a dependable flow of contributions and a reduction in paperwork and bookkeeping. You also avoid “catch-up” periods when you are away. Making changes to your contributions is also very easy. Simply write or e-mail any changes to Diane and it will immediately be taken care of.

Please consider joining the many others who fulfill their financial commitment to the church through PAR!

CHURCH OFFICE

The Church Office is “open” on a regular basis for any church business. **Usual** hours are from 9:00 a.m. to noon each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, although occasional hours may vary (please call or check the bulletin for any changes).

The Office e-mail address is wucsecretary@bellnet.ca for any announcements or other church business.

To keep our Membership Lists up to date, please notify the office if you have any changes to your contact information (address, phone, e-mail).

**WE TRY TO SEND AS MANY NEWSLETTERS AS POSSIBLE VIA E-MAIL TO SAVE PAPER AND MAILING EXPENSES.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OUR E-MAIL LIST, PLEASE LET US KNOW.**

The next Newsletter will be published early in the Spring Season. If you have events or other news to share with the congregation, please forward to the Church Office at wucsecretary@bellnet.ca or leave a note in the Mail Box outside the Office door.

Rev. Mary Jo Patterson 519-426-8837 (home)

revmaryjowaterfordunited@gmail.com

Church Web Page – under construction

Church Phone 519-443-5261

Office Administrator, Diane Holden wucsecretary@bellnet.ca

Treasurer, Kimberly Holden wuctreasurer@bellnet.ca

Church Bookings, Cori Angus 519-443-8212 or 519-802-2401 or e-mail at rangus@sympatico.ca

ADVENT - WHAT IS ENOUGH?

Here's a little excerpt from a blog pondering the concept of "enough" at Advent, Christmas or any time of the year.

"I was standing in a store this morning, looking at everything in my basket and running the mental checklist of everyone I want things for. I was assembling a stocking for Joe in my head and I thought "Is that enough?"

The dictionary defines enough as "occurring in such quantity, quality, or scope as to fully meet demands, needs or expectations." Clearly, since we live in a house, eat when we are hungry, drink when we are thirsty, put on clothes when we are cold . . . obviously we have enough.

What's a gift but an attempt to show the recipient that you love or care for them, and if that's what it is, am I ever going to be able to get them enough?

When I really thought about it, everything I've prepared so far is enough. It is all enough. There are enough cookies, enough underpants, and enough food. Christmas is coming, and not only will there be enough, there will probably be too much. So I hit the re-set button on my sense of self and I did three things – I made a donation for people who actually don't have enough, I wrote a letter to someone who is important to me and I had a cup of tea. And that was enough."
~ Stephanie Pearl-McPhee

With "enough" in mind, below is the Waterford United Church Financial Report to October 31, 2017.

Please consider a year-end donation. "Whatever you can give will be enough."

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT AT OCTOBER 31, 2017

The Comparative Income Statement to October 31, 2017 shows that total revenue is \$82,141.71 and total expense is \$94,241.40.

Revenue	\$ 82,141.71
Expenses	<u>\$ 94,241.40</u>
Net Income	- \$ (12,099.69)



WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH YEAR-END DONATIONS 2017 PLEASE CONSIDER A YEAR-END DONATION

Name _____

Envelope # _____

Address _____

Amount \$ _____

Use this form and place in the Offering Plate or mail to the address below -
Cheques are payable to Waterford United Church:

Waterford United Church, 135 Main Street S., P.O. Box 37, Waterford, Ontario N0E 1Y0

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!