

MIDHURST UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

91 DORAN ROAD, MIDHURST, ONTARIO 705-722-6331

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 1, 2024



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 1, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Followed by coffee and conversation

Worship Leader - Rev. Dr. Judith Visser

Responsive Reading:
Song of Zechariah
(VU 900)

Gospel Reading:
Luke 1:26-38



Advent One - Dec. 1

White Gift Sunday

Advent 1 - December 1 - Food Items Needed

The Advent season commences this Sunday. For Advent 1, we are supporting the Elmvale & District Food Bank. Items needed are: cereal, canned tomatoes, canned pasta sauce, cookies, canned fruit, peanut butter, cream of chicken soup, school pudding cups, drinking boxes, canned beef gravy, canned turkey gravy, pancake mix, pancake syrup, tomato juice, apple juice in a can, men's and ladies shampoo and canned meat (not tuna.) Thank you for your support.

Coming to a Sanctuary near you!

Sunday, December 15 2024



This year's Christmas Pageant Play at MUC will borrow themes, setting, and characters from The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis.

To help ready us for the event, the Newsletter will feature some helpful background over the next few weeks.

Segment 3: Storyline (simplified)

In The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, four siblings (Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy) enter the fantasy realm of Narnia through a magical wardrobe. Fulfilling an ancient prophecy, they set out to help Aslan, the rightful king of Narnia, overthrow the evil White Witch and bring peace and new life to the land. Father Christmas arrives, heralding that Christmas is coming and the White Witch's powers are starting to wane. He gives the children gifts to help them in their quest to overthrow the White Witch. Ultimately, good triumphs over evil.

"A Narnia Nativity", MUC's Christmas pageant play, will loosely follow this basic storyline.

The four siblings enter Narnia, encountering the White Witch and her nastiness. Father Christmas shows up to encourage the children, giving them gifts to prepare the Manger for the coming of the Special Baby who will bring peace and new life to the land. The children eventually thwart the White Witch and manage to leave their gifts at the Manger. Ultimately, good triumphs over evil. (*Watch for Segment 4: Characters in next week's newsletter.*)

Strong Leadership Aligned to the Evolving Mission and Growth of MUC

As the Midhurst United Church (MUC) Council continues to plan for our work and worship into the future, we are looking at one of our previously identified goals to see how we might achieve it. All participants in the life and work of our church are encouraged to CONSIDER, DISCUSS and PROVIDE FEEDBACK on the following Goal. Please provide your feedback to office@midhurstunitedchurch.ca to Jeannette (djschieck@gmail.com) or to any member of the Council. Thank you for taking the time to help us determine the way forward for our church.

Please click [here](#) to read the document or see the attachment sent with the newsletter this week.

A Note From The Treasurer

As Christmas is approaching it is time to think of our Mission and Service Fund. We have promised to send this fund \$14,000 and so far we've only sent them about \$8,000. We also have to think about fulfilling our 2024 budget. We budgeted for \$134,403 in donations and so far are only at \$103,000. So please remember your Church at Christmas.





Mitten Tree

A tree will be set up at the back of the Sanctuary this Sunday to collect hats, mittens, scarves and socks. They will be delivered to a local charity after December 17.

Jerry the Pig



Food prices continue to rise steeply because of inflation and worldwide supply chain disruptions. In the fly-in communities of the Far North, already high food prices are going even higher. Everyone has a right to have enough nourishing food for themselves and their families. Help people in the Far North access the food they need. Your Gift of \$50 will buy five grocery cards for a family in the Far North.

NEW DOOR BELL!

Let the office
know you have
arrived, if the
door is locked.

DOOR BELL



If the door is locked and there is someone in the office, please ring the new door bell that is located at the front door by the CCC banner. It may not be heard from everywhere in the church but it will be helpful for anyone in the office or in the family room to know that you have arrived.



**Committee
budgets
due to
Liz on
Dec. 1**

Committee chairs are asked to submit budgets to Liz by **December 1. The next council meeting** has been changed to **December 18th at 2 PM.**

BEAUTIFUL

GIFTS OF THE SEASON

Advent 1: Prophets
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, and Joel, prophets of old, what gift do you bring to us this Advent season?
We bring the gifts of dreams, dreams of peace and justice, dreams of a child born who would change the world.

Advent 2: Angels
Angels, what gift do you bring to us this Advent season?
We bring the gift of a message, a message of peace and joy, a message of a child born to change the world.

Advent 3: Shepherds
Shepherds, what gift do you bring to us this Advent season?
We bring the gift of acceptance, acceptance as we are, for who we are, acceptance found in a child born to change the world.

Advent 4: Mary and Joseph
Mary and Joseph, what gift do you bring to us this Advent?
We bring the gift of love, the love we offer to each other in difficult circumstances, the love we offer to the baby Jesus who was born to change the world.

Christmas Eve: Jews
Jesus, what gift do you bring to us this Christmas?
I bring the gift of knowledge, knowledge that God is with us, we are not alone, knowledge that within you and me is the ability to change the world.

Epiphany: The Wise Ones
Wise Ones, what gift do you bring to us this Christmas?
We bring the gift of treasure, treasure that is better than gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God-given treasure found within each of us that we may change the world.
From Gathering Advent 2004-5 Susan Lusk, High River UC; All Used with permission.

Prayer
O God, help us to find you in the spirit of Christmas: the happiness that Jesus found as he shared and gave of himself. Help us to share all of our gifts and help us learn to receive in the Christian spirit. Amen
Betty Turcott, Faith U.C., Courtes, ON
Gathering Advent, Christmas 2004-5, used with permission.

Gifts to Wrap Your Mind Around!

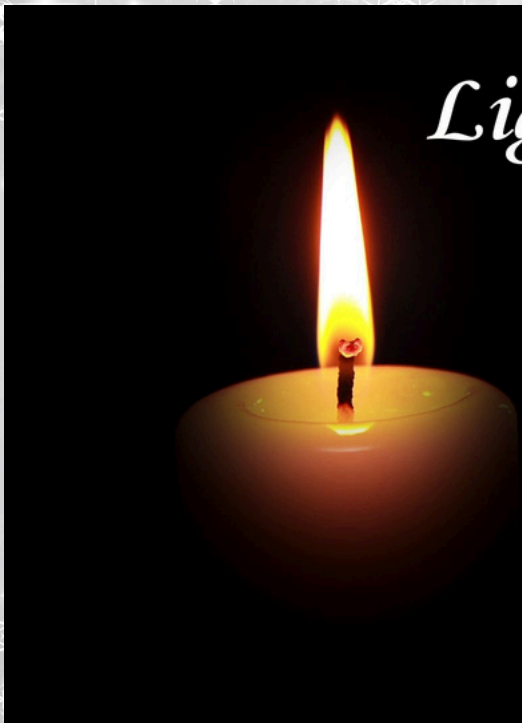
Shine shine shine
What ways can you shine?
1. Smile at a stranger
2. Help to the best of your abilities
3. Be Kind!
4. Make someone feel welcome
Feel welcome to all! ❤️

Church Community for Children

Check out the CCC bulletin board in the link of the church!



**Advent 2
Cantata
December 8**



Light in the Shadows

Dec. 17 at 7 PM

**Light a candle in
memory of a
loved one**