

“Living faithfully in the Spirit of Christ to make a loving difference in the world.”

Paul's Ponderings

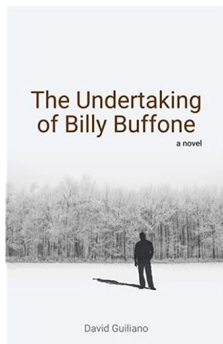
When I was at Queen's Theological College, we took a year of Hebrew and a year of Greek. The goal was not to speak the language, but to appreciate the biblical languages so that we could know the biblical writings in a deeper way. 37-38 years later, I don't remember a lot. We did learn the Greek alphabet and I remember Alpha, beta, ... and omega. I don't remember the Greek letter Omicron at all. But, we are all learning the Greek alphabet as the COVID variants are named.

A couple of weeks ago I was part of conversation about how to mark the ending of the pandemic and even then that had a strange sense to it - and now with the emergence of omicron we are uneasy again about this wilderness path we live. If a variant is named Omega - will that be the end?

Along this pandemic path, we also walk the Advent path as we listen for voices in the wilderness and light candles to shine into the confusion and isolation of this time. May the Advent truths of hope, peace, joy and love find renewed meaning. May the gift of the Christ child - who is offered many names - Emmanuel, the Alpha and Omega - be our inspiration and compass.

Broadview Magazine – Subscriptions for Broadview (the former United Church Observer) are available for 2022 for \$25. Please send your money to the church (mail, e-transfer, drop off)

Book Nook sale. December 18, 10-12



Book Club on Jan. 23rd, 7:00 PM discussing David Guilliano's book, The Undertaking of Billy Buffone. The author will be present for the discussion on Zoom.



The Centre continues to serve the hungry folks within their catchment area. For various reasons numbers attending dropped since the beginning of the pandemic, but are now rising again.

People have been very generous throughout this period, and the amount of Food supplied by the Ottawa Food Bank has increased, allowing for more to be distributed. They are now able to give out some essential non food items. Grocery gift cards have been purchased on an on going basis, so folks are able to purchase foods of their choice.

Thank you to all who have continued to support HEFC, and as we are now receiving items related to our Partner Offering we thank you in advance.

Canned fruits, kidney beans, chick peas, toothbrushes toothpaste and bar soap are some of the most needed items right now.

Thanks to all who continue to save the Wilson's Independent receipts. Recently we submitted \$37,000 worth, which meant \$370 was donated to HEFC.

The donations of egg cartons have been much appreciated but presently there is a good supply so they ask that we refrain from sending them till further notice. Cash donations are always very welcome either through RUC or online at hefc.ca.

Any questions call Mary Shaw 613-733-4600.

Centre
507 

Centre 507 Xmas Appeal

The folks here at Riverside United have always been so generous in responding to the needs of the less fortunate in our city. As winter approaches the needs are for warm socks, underwear, long johns, hand and foot warmers, gloves, mittens. Also, toilet paper, lip balm, deodorant, travel size shampoo, razors and shaving cream. These items can be brought to the church during office hours or Sunday mornings until mid December. Morag Pearce



Mitten Tree - This is the 20th year of collecting warm winter items to be distributed. Riverside United began the Mitten Tree project in 2001 and it was created in memory of Yvonne Steadman. We thank Dave and Gwen Bell for their dedication to this project for many years. As we launch this year we are expanding the idea to include the various groups that use the building: the Nursery

School, The Meeting House, Scouts, the Farmer's Market, etc. We invite donations of mittens, gloves, hats, scarfs, warm socks, etc.

Financial Update:

Thank you to those who contributed to the finances of the congregation. Some highlights of the financial statements as of the end of October:

RUC	2021	2020
Revenue	152,487	138,225
Expenses	<u>167,043</u>	<u>156,827</u>
Net	- 14,556	- 18,602
CEWS received *	12,116	15,888

Not included in the above are the Capital Fund donations for the chancel renewal and audio/visual upgrade total 34,887.

We have also received a \$25,000 grant for this project from the Church Extension Fund of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council.

Donations to the Mission and Service Fund have been \$23,900.

Jamaica Night Donations received as of Nov, 19th - \$5,007.00 CAD or \$ 608,055 JMC

* Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people in over 150

countries and territories who campaign for human rights. At Riverside we have been participating in the annual writeathon for 16 years. This year the 10 cases highlight individuals and human rights groups who try to exercise the same human rights that we take for granted. Our writeathon will be in the church on Saturday December 11 from 9 a.m. until noon. All COVID-19 restrictions will be respected. Cases are also available on the web at writeathon.ca. Cases are available in the narthex of the church for those who prefer to take a case and write from home. Sending a message of hope to the individuals is as important as writing to the authorities. We will have a ZOOM link (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87183760085>) on Saturday December 11 to assist anyone who may have some questions about this year's campaign. We had positive results in some of the cases in 2020. Join us in person or electronically in this important campaign. We only ask that you let us know how many cases you wrote on and to which countries.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF NATIVE STUDIES

Indigenous Canada: the University of Alberta is offering a free 12-lesson course called "Indigenous Canada". Beginning in January, Patricia Power will be leading six sessions every two weeks based on two sessions. It is foreseen that the discussion could focus on the following questions: what do these learnings give, in the spirit of reconciliation to the United Church as a whole, Riverside United, and us as individuals? The course timeline begins as soon as you sign up; the sessions will be on Mondays at 7:00 pm, from January 10th to March 21st in the evenings.

Sunday Morning Assistance – We need volunteers to help with the greeting/screening and vaccine checking/contact tracing stations, as well as chancel set up on Sunday mornings. There is a sign up sheet available on Sundays.

Calendar of Events - December 2021 to January 2022

Advent/Christmas Worship Schedule: (As of Nov 30, 2021 - subject to change if pandemic realities change)		
Date	Details: Time	Event
Sunday, Dec 5 th	10:30 am	Second Sunday of Advent
Sat., Dec 11 th	9:00 am - Noon	Amnesty International - Write for Rights
Sun., Dec 12 th	10:30 am	Third Sunday of Advent - The service will include Readings and Music recordings
Sat., Dec 18 th	10:00 am - Noon	Book Nook Sale
Sun., Dec 19 th	10:30 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent. Pageant Sunday - “The Diaries of Bethlehem”
Sun., Dec 19 th	7:00 pm	A Quiet Service on Zoom only to reflect on the various moods of the season and to share communion together.
Tue., Dec 21 st	3:00 pm	A Quiet Christmas service in person only to acknowledge the various realities of this season and as we prepare for the longest night of the year.
Fri., Dec 24 th	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve service, including Communion and Candlelight.
Sun., Dec 26 th	10:00 am	Service at Emmanuel United Church (691 Smyth Rd). This service will also be streamed - access info available through Emmanuel’s website.
Sunday, Jan 2 nd	10:00 am	Service at Rideau Park United Church (2203 Alta Vista Dr.). This service will also be streamed - access info available through Rideau Park’s website.
Sun., Jan 9 th	10:30 am	Regular in person worship service will be available by live-stream and on Zoom
Sun., Jan 16 th	10:30 am	Regular in person worship service will be available by live-stream and on Zoom
Sun., Jan 23 rd	10:30 am	Regular in person worship service will be available by live-stream and on Zoom
Sun., Jan 23 rd	7:00 pm	Book Club on ZOOM - David Guiliano's book, The Undertaking of Billy Buffone
Sun., Jan 30 th	10:30 am	Regular in person worship service will be available by live-stream and on Zoom

All In Person Gatherings Require Proof of Vaccination and masking