

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

Paul's Ponderings

As the Advent season beckons, I have been working on planning for worship events for the season. There is a new dynamic in play now in worship planning that has emerged over the past couple of years: in person, virtual or both! It is taking some thought to work to craft worship that "works" both online and in person.

Our new audio/visual system is enabling us to blend some elements and we are still learning - and awaiting one more piece that will enable more interaction. And yet, as I have been thinking about Advent and Christmas, I am feeling that I don't want every service to have that "dual track" dynamic. So, there will be some services offered on Zoom only - so that we can have that live interaction and there will be an in-person only service on Christmas Eve as we capture joy and spontaneity without worrying if it is being picked up by a microphone!

I do love the challenge of the multiple tracks of worship engagement, but there are also times for a simpler delivery.

Maybe that is a good Advent wish - that amidst complexity of living in this continued pandemic time, may we know the peace and assurance of the gift of love that is Christmas.



Health Connect Ontario has replaced Telehealth Ontario. You can call 811 or visit the website 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to get health advice, to help navigate health services and to find information.

<https://healthconnectontario.health.gov.on.ca/static/guest/home>

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



The 2022 Amnesty International Write-a-thon will be held in the church on **Saturday, December 10**

(Human Rights Day) from **9 until noon**. This year's campaign speaks out for people in 10 various countries - most have been imprisoned, tortured or killed for practicing one of the basic freedoms we enjoy so freely: the freedom to express one's opinion peacefully. Amnesty adopts only people who exercise their rights peacefully - who never use or advocate the use of violence in the expression of their opinions. The 10 cases are clearly presented with sample letters to assist letter writers. We can exercise this freedom on their behalf. If we don't, who will? Join us on December 10. Come and write one or 10 letters.



After a 2 year hiatus as an in-person event, the annual Christmas Concert to benefit HEFC will be at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 1758 Alta Vista Drive, on Sunday **December 4th at 3:30 PM**. The program will feature 3 choirs, a Wind Ensemble and a soloist interspersed with audience carols. There will be a freewill offering.

This is one of the main fundraisers for the Centre, which continues to serve increasing numbers of clients during this time of escalating food costs and decreased donations.

Continued thanks to all who faithfully support HEFC. It is much appreciated by the Board of Directors and by those folks who need to use its services

Advent Gatherings - Wed evenings at 7pm on Zoom. Each week there will be a worship/discussion format as we explore the advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love. The Zoom link is: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88485189668?pwd=SmwzSCtGK3kwY2QxdUIYTR1Y3I2dz09>

Meeting ID: 884 8518 9668
Passcode: 300123



Riverside
 Walk your mind and create beauty, our commitment to
 to seek our path in God, as revealed in Jesus,
 to care for the needs of
 to build partnerships of mutuality, respect and hope in our
 neighborhood and beyond.
 as we worship, share, and serve together.
 We embrace the mandate as a result of God's offering love for
 all and extend grace to all men, women, children, youth,
 marriage and single families in every aspect of the life of
 our faith community.

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 October 9, 2022
 Riverside United Church

Bulletin Cover Photos - We are no longer able to purchase covers from the United Church. Do you have a photo we can use (portrait layout). We are looking for donations of photos you have that will reflect either the season or sentiment of a particular Sunday. You will be acknowledged on the bulletin. Please send to the office. Thank You



**"You Give, We Give"
 Hobin Architecture Is
 Matching New Donations**

Until December 31, 2022, Hobin Architecture pledges to match new donations to Centre 507. We are grateful for Hobin Architecture's generosity and support.

If you have never donated to Centre 507 (or you know someone who might want to support us for the first time) now is the time to help Centre 507. Hobin Architecture's generosity means Centre 507 could receive \$10,000 in matching donations.

Centre 507 provides participants with quality, nutritious meals six days per week and one of the most fulsome recreation programs in the city.

Warm Clothing Collection:

We would like to collect gently used winter boots, warm socks, sweaters and winter coats for Centre 507. We would like to start collecting now because the cold weather will be here soon. Please drop off your items in the narthex. If you cannot deliver them to the church please call Wanda Maurais 613-692-4918 and she will pick them up.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS TO FILL!

Riverside United Church is its people, and there are upcoming opportunities to take advantage of as we move into the second 60 years of being who we are. Three to four positions are currently open or coming in the new year, starting after our next annual general meeting:

COUNCIL SECRETARY: The Council of RUC is currently looking for a new Secretary. The responsibilities of this position are to attend Council Meetings, usually the third Wednesday every second month at 7PM, but at times may be more frequent, to take notes and to write the Minutes of the meeting. These Minutes are then sent to Council members to review, and are approved at the next Council meeting, and then forwarded to the church office to become part of the official record of the church.

MINISTRY and PERSONNEL COMMITTEE Member at Large. The Ministry and Personnel Committee meets at least four times a year to ensure that the staff of Riverside United Church are being well served in their positions, and that we are following the standards of employment established by the Government of Ontario and the United Church of Canada regarding working conditions, safety, and satisfaction in their position. We are fortunate to have such wonderful staff to support! You can volunteer to make sure our staff members continue to feel their value to us.

REFUGEE COMMITTEE: For many years, Norm and Pat McLeod have worked behind the scenes in collaboration with others in this city and around the world to find wonderful people for our church to help sponsor to become Citizens of Canada. We thank them and hope that one or two of you, our members, will take over this role as part of your participation in our church activities. Norm and Pat will be continuing to provide some support for the current refugee family being sponsored, but they need to also support others to develop their role in this essential service that our church provides to those people and families overseas that need our support to come to Canada. Please contact a member of the **RUC Nominations Committee** that includes Karen Ogston, Gail Christy, or Christine Rhodes if you are interested in filling one of these roles or leave a message at the church office at (613)733-7735 or ruc@rogers.com for us to contact you.

Calendar of Events - November / December 2022

Date	Details: Time	Event
Nov 27 th	10:30 AM - 1 st Sunday of Advent	Hybrid in person service and live stream
Nov 30 th	7:00 PM	Advent Gathering on Zoom
Dec 4 th	10:30 AM - 2 nd Sunday of Advent	Hybrid in person service and live stream
Dec 7 th	7:00 PM	Advent Gathering on Zoom
Dec 10 th	9:00 AM to Noon	2022 Amnesty International Write-a-thon
Dec 11 th	10:30 AM - 3 rd Sunday of Advent	Hybrid in person service and live stream
Dec 14 th	7:00 PM	Advent Gathering on Zoom
Dec 17 th	9:00 AM TO NOON	BOOK NOOK Sale
Dec 18 th	10:30 AM - 4 th Sunday of Advent	Hybrid in person service and live stream- Christmas pageant
Dec 21 st	7:00 PM - Quiet Christmas Service	Advent Gathering on Zoom
Dec 24 th	Christmas Eve – 6:30 PM	Family Service (in person, no on-line streaming)
Dec 24 th	Christmas Eve – 8:30 PM	Communion Service (Zoom only)
Dec 25 th	Pre-recorded video	scripture/reflection/hymn - available on YouTube
Dec 31 st	Deadline for Matching Centre 507 Donations	
Jan 1 st	10:30 AM Cluster service held here at Riverside	Hybrid in person service and live stream - 5 congregations joining together - Southminster, Rideau Park, Emmanuel, Glebe St. James & Riverside

Christmas Giving Opportunities:

1) **Mitten Tree** - The annual mitten tree will be set up in the entryway and donations of mittens, gloves, scarfs, hats and socks are welcome. These items will be distributed through partners in the community.

2) Gifts will be collected for the **Young Men's Shelter**. Items needed are:

- Toiletries
- Gift cards from: Tim Horton's, McDonald, Subway, Walmart, Independent
- Long johns
- Boxers (size M to XL)
- Sweaters (M to XXL)
- Head phones
- Winter hats and scarves
- Slippers (size 8 to 14)
- Jeans size 30 to 38
- pajamas
- Gloves
- Socks
- Goodies and more

3) Stockings for **Serenity House** - cash donations would be welcome. We are filling stockings for 7 residents this year. Gifts will be received at any time, and will distributed after Dec 18th

Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality - This long standing educational program will be offering on-line courses for the winter 2023 terms on Monday evenings - Jan 9th to March 20th. The term is divided in two - with three course options for each 6 week period. For more information, see <https://osts.ca/>