

FLOCK TALK

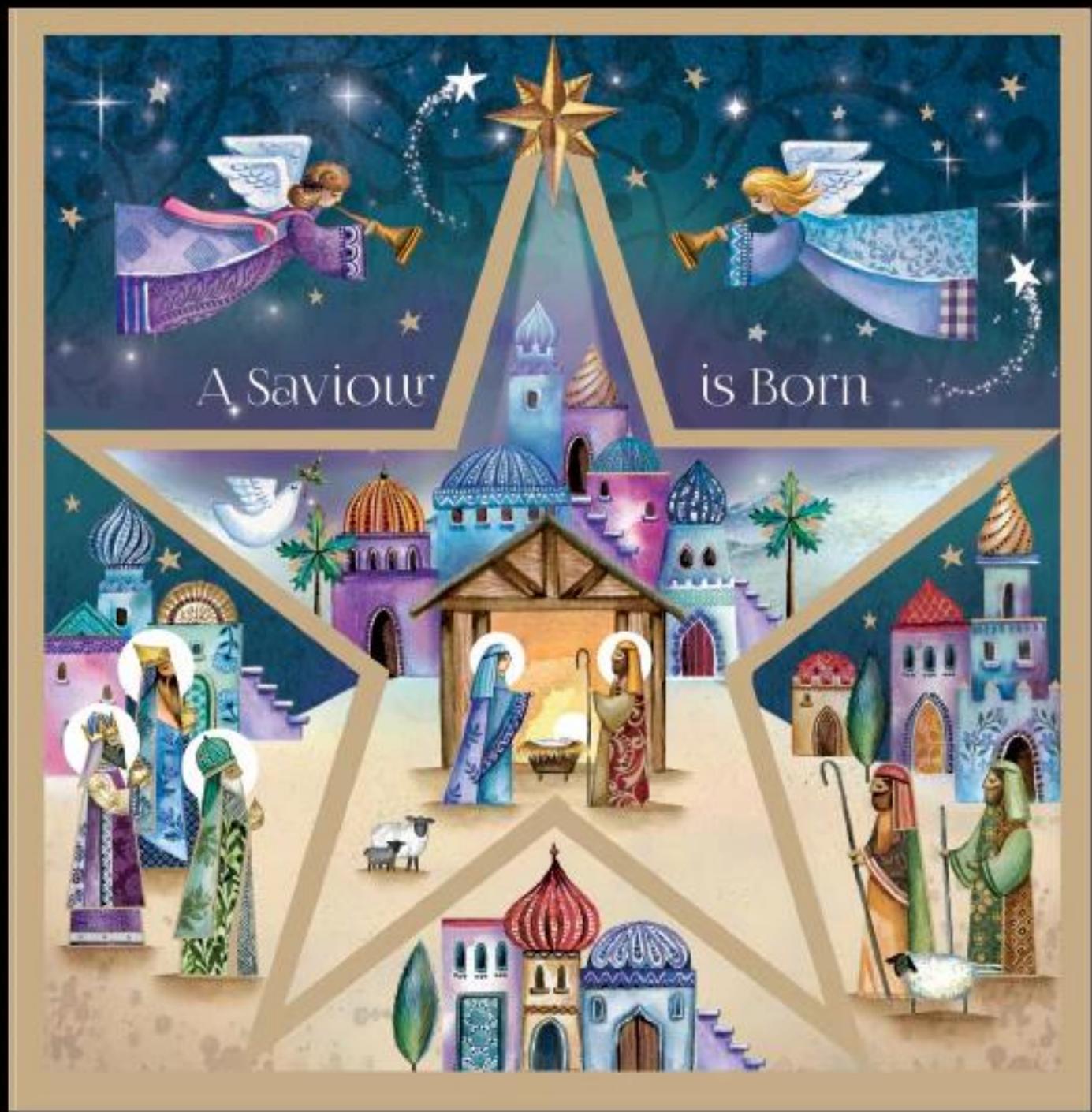
Asbury and West United Church

3180 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M6A 2A9 Office: 416-783-6503

"The Friendly Church"

December 24, 2023

Edition 168



Our Mission Statement: We are a diverse community of Christians, called by God, who seek to make a positive difference in the lives of those who live in the Bathurst and Lawrence Community and beyond.

LOOK BACK AND Thank God

The **Rev. Douglas McKenzie Memorial Walk** on October 1 raised in \$975.00. Thank you for your generous support.



Halloween Celebration on Sunday Oct 29.



Guest Minister, Rev. Dr. Malcolm Sinclair preaching at Asbury on Nov 12.



Asbury's Congregation Christmas Pot Luck Dinner on Nov 25. We welcomed Rev. Malcolm and his wife Elspeth as our guests.

November Birthdays



UCW Christmas Party & Pot Luck on Nov 21.



At our **Sunday School** party on Dec 17. Buffet Lunch served by our Filipino families with our new minister, Rev. Ariel Saigan.



Editors' Note

Flock Talk is now sent electronically to an ever-growing list of people and we hope it is forwarded along to family and friends. If you know of anyone wishing to be added to the email list, please let us know.

A limited number of copies are printed in the church office for those without computers and for the copies mailed out to our Home Members. We are grateful to our Church Secretary, Amrita, for looking after this aspect of Flock Talk.

As always, we welcome feedback & suggestions and appreciate your submissions for each issue. Send your pictures complete with names, event and date!!!

Jocelyn & Sylvia



In Loving Memory of

Members and friends of Asbury and West who have passed this year.



forever remembered, forever missed.

Randy Nielsen, May 3, 2023

Beatrice Cares, October 2023

Pallavi Christian (Yasmin Halley's sister), November 5, 2023

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Just Married



Kevin and Casey Balignasay, May 26, 2023

"But at the beginning of creation God made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." (Mark 10:6-9)

Baptism



Cali Champ Jr. Braithwaite-Walton, June 18, 2023

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism. (Ephesians 4:5)



Anointing



Baptism



Communion



Confirmation



Holy Orders



Marriage



Reconciliation



SENIOR CHOIR

Merry Christmas from the Choir!

We love this time of year. After all, it's a lot about the music!

We continue to meet Sunday mornings to lead the congregation in uplifting song. We are a close-knit group who love and support each other and our church.

We are still looking for that perfect fit of a pianist for the church. We have had the pleasure of three musicians that have been auditioned for the spot of Music Director for the church. Adam Falconi will be playing with us during the Advent and Christmas season.

We are hopeful and excited to see what the new year brings to our Choir and Church Family. We continue to pray for guidance and patience on this journey.

We wish you and yours all the happiness the Season has to offer!

Lisa Crawford
Lucille Hunte

Janiss Johnson
Lola Pinnock

Jerry Lewis
Lydia Cariaga

Lisa Crawford



IS IT A CAROL OR SONG?

Every year at Christmas time we are regaled with festive and seasonal music - Christmas carols and songs. But what makes a piece of Christmas music a carol, as opposed to merely a Christmas song?

Of course the most fundamental rule would seem to be that a carol has a religious connotation related to the birth of Christ, and yet some pieces which today are usually thought of as carols actually relate to quite different events in the Bible, or contain secular themes, whilst other pieces which are usually thought of as pop songs may carry a clear religious message.

A second generalisation is that carols tend to be simple tunes with a regular beat and a chorus, designed to be sung in churches and by professional or amateur choirs, rather than by solo entertainers on the stage or screen. But again this is scarcely a hard and fast rule.

Finally, any music which has stood the test of time, may have a reverence bestowed upon it when described as a carol or hymn, which modern songs tend to lack; and yet some very beautiful, very modern songs could undoubtedly be described as carols.

Perhaps one should not over analyse these things - although there are grey areas, most of us will recognise a carol for what it is, and most of us will enjoy the sound we hear.

Editors' Note : Throughout this issue you will find interesting facts about a few Christmas Carols. We hope some of your favorites are included. All information is sourced from Alun (author) of Greensleeves Hubs from Essex, UK

<https://discover.hubpages.com/entertainment/ChristmasCarols>



WINTER – A SOLTICE



Winter: it's arrived.

Long nights. Days short and often eye-hurtingly bright.

This is the time of deep reflection. Of quiet. Of peace.

Christmas comes to us all too quickly. The time seems too short, yet sometimes it seems like it carries on for an eternity. We revel in the joy of family and tradition, colours and lights. We share gifts and food and exchange good wishes with those we encounter. The brilliance of the season carries us through the darkest period of the year.

"People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table."

~ Eleanor Farjeon

Jesus is our light, not only in this dark season, but always. His birth gives us cause for celebration, a reason to share, a reason to dress ourselves and our homes in finery. It's just the beginning of His life.

Now is the time to brew tea, make a pot of hot chocolate, snuggle-up with a pumpkin spice latte. Make those comforting muffins, enjoy the Sunday roast with family. Find the book that will draw you in and waste your winter hours when it's so cold outside that your cheeks might freeze, or the dampness makes the finger joints ache, when the snow is shin-deep and still building. Now is the time to renew handicrafts. Haul out the knitting, get out your pencils and sketchpads. Buy a colouring book.

Celebrate, for the winter is upon us. The nights are cold and the days are short. Look inside and find what lies there, both good and bad. Face the demons and the joys. This is who we are; imperfect, cherished, loved.

Lisa Crawford



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

New Minister: Search Team Progress

The Search Team and Council are pleased to announce that a new minister has been appointed by Asbury and West. Please join with us in welcoming Rev. Ariel Siagan to our church family. As a part-time supply minister, he will be with us from January 1st until December 31st, 2024. As this is a part-time position, a congregational meeting to approve the appointment was not required by Regional Council. However, we will hold a covenanting service in the new year.

Rev. Siagan is currently finishing his PhD thesis at Trinity College, University of Toronto. He completed his Master's in Theology in Seoul, South Korea and then gained six years of congregational ministry experience in the Philippines. He also has ten years of ecumenical experience with the National Council of Churches in the Philippines.

Please pray for Rev. Siagan and for all of us as a community of faith that we open our hearts and minds to each other's ministry as we begin this new pastoral relationship.

The Search Team, which included Mel Beckles, Lydia Cariaga, Linda Cobon, Yasmin Halley, Clay Johnson and Jane Viernes, will now be disbanded.

Yasmin Haley, Chair





WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Our purpose is to enhance the spiritual growth of every person in the congregation.

We are a happily working Ministry Group of Asbury and West United Church.

We meet monthly to discuss the Sunday mornings and the life and work of our youth and all those who come to be spiritually nourished within the walls of our church.

We will be very happy when we have a new minister to lead us on Sunday mornings and guide us through the polity and workings of the greater church.

We are actively seeking a new music director, as most of you are aware. We bid Anthony Panacci a fond farewell!

We have had the pleasure of listening to three musical candidates: Jeff Vidov, Lada Lagover and Adam Falconi. We are blessed to have Cecilia Lee join us as a substitute musician when the need arises.

We have had members of the Worship and Christian Education team provide Sunday morning services through the Summer and into Autumn. We have had the privilege of guest ministers speak in the last few months, too: Rev. Linda Levin, Rev. Ariel Siagan and Rev. Dr. Malcolm Sinclair.

We are honoured to have had Rev. Sinclair be with us for the Advent and Christmas season.

Merry Christmas from the Worship and Christian Education Ministry!

Lisa Crawford, Co-Chair, Secretary

Cheryl Holliday, Co-Chair

Kim Davidson

Melvyn Beckles

Clayton Johnson

Lydia Cariaga

*Lisa Crawford & Cheryl Holliday,
Rotating Chairs*

Christian Education

The Sunday School children continued with their lessons and stories on biblical Kings and the one Queen.

On October 30 the children came dressed up in Hallowe'en costumes and collected trick or treat candies from the congregation. Some of the adults dressed up too!

On November 12 we made picture decorations for our Christmas Tree, which is displayed in the upper room.

During the White Gift Sunday service, the children collected the white gifts (food) donated by the congregation.

On December 17 we had our Christmas Party during which we received gifts and candy. After the service the congregation enjoyed a lunch hosted by the Filipino families. (See page 2)

The Rev. Douglas McKenzie Memorial Walk, held on October 1 raised \$975.00 with a portion of the money going to support our foster child, Noemy, and the rest to the general church funds. The children went on their own walk and a "God's Creation Scavenger Hunt". A portion of our offerings were donated to the church.

There will be no Sunday School on December 24 and December 31. Instead colouring and activity sheets will be available at the tables set up in the sanctuary.

The Youth Class has completed learning about the Disciples, using the booklet "He Has Called Us Too", written by yours truly and published by the Canadian Bible Society.

We wish you and your family a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas

*Cheryl Holliday
Director of Children's & Youth Ministry*



CHANGES TO ZOOM AND SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Worship and Christian Education Ministry and the Church Council have made important decisions about Sunday morning services. These changes will start *January 1, 2024*.

Worship group have found that the work that is needed to be done to put together and consistently run the Sunday morning Zoom service is too extensive for the people who volunteer to run it. With the lack of volunteers for the technology, it is very difficult to schedule time away from the church for them, either for holidays or for emergencies/illness. Also, there are technical difficulties that we are trying to work through, but would likely require a professional to come in and troubleshoot for us at a substantial cost to the church.

We believe that the Zoom ministry has been an important one for our congregation and we are broken hearted to see the programme shelved for now. Perhaps we can bring it back if we have more people willing to help in future.

For those who attend in-person, we have decided to make changes to the PowerPoint for the services. In future, we will resume the use of bulletins. The PowerPoint will have the *hymns only*. If there is a time when there is no one to run the PowerPoint, the congregation will revert to using the hymn books.

This does not mean that we will not go back to Zoom and full PowerPoint in the future, but for now, our overworked team needs a bit less stress.

Blessings to you all!

Lisa Crawford
Co-Chair, Worship and Christian Education



Our first stained glass window was installed during December 1983 and dedicated on Sunday, August 24, 1984 during a Mulholland family reunion in Toronto. The "Nativity" was donated in memory of Elsie Mulholland by many members of the Mulholland family. The land on which Asbury and West is build was originally donated by Henry and Jane for Wesleyan Methodist Church in the 1830's.



MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

The members of the Membership and Pastoral Care Ministry continue to work, making phone calls and trying to keep in touch with our members, who are willing to talk to us.

We are not loud, but trying to reach out to all. Visits are made as needed. We sent Christmas cards to every member we are Blessed to have.

The Revenant Eric Nyarko is our supervisor until our new minister is hired. Our thanks to Reverent Nyarko who did the November funeral service at our church for Yasmin Halley's sister, Pallavi Christian. Our condolences to Yasmin, Robert and Caroline and Yasmin's family.

The members of our Ministry are Ianthe Spencer (Chair), Janiss Johnson (Secretary), Melvyne and Shirley Beckles, Lucille Hunte, Lisa Crawford and Linda Cobon.



Ianthe Spencer, Chair

SILENT NIGHT

This is probably the most famous carol of all, and certainly the carol with the best known story surrounding its origins, however, much embellished and mythologised over the years. In 1816 Pastor Joseph Mohr wrote the words of '*Stille Nacht*' as a poem in Mariapfarr, Austria. Two years later, Mohr had moved to the Church of St Nicholas in Oberndorf, and according to the legend the organ broke down - on Christmas Eve of all nights! Mohr suddenly thought of his two year old poem, and gave it to his friend Franz Gruber, a local schoolteacher and composer, who was struck by the beauty of the words. He immediately sat down and composed a melody for guitar that was completed in time for the Midnight Service, and so was born on the eve of Christmas, the carol '*Silent Night*'. The song took off, first in Austria where a singing family called the Strassers performed '*Stille Nacht*' at a Leipzig concert in 1832, and then in America, where the Rainer family performed the carol outside Trinity Church in New York City in 1839. Two decades later, John Freeman Young published an English translation of the German original. Then in December 1914, '*Silent Night*', already a popular carol, took on a new sentimental edge during the first Christmas truce of World War One. It was, it seems, one of the few carols which both English and German soldiers knew, so as the guns fell silent for an all too brief period, the strains of '*Silent Night*' filled the air instead.





"Sharing the Gifts We
Have Been Given"

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

By now you should have received the Stewardship letter regarding are financial status and ongoing challenges. The presentation is somewhat disturbing, but not totally irreparable. All we need to do is pull ourselves together and think of all the ways we can continue being faithful to our call to ministry. Not just for ourselves but for the community we serve.

So how do we do that?

According to our 2023 financial statements, as of October 31 we have a total **deficit** net income of approximately \$70,625. By the end of this year, it could reach \$100,000. Yikes!

Thankfully, though, we have been blessed with a congregation that is faithful and committed. And we are all doing what we can to be the church. The Stewardship team is immensely grateful for your dedication and support. It means we can continue worshipping in a beautiful sanctuary in a building that also serves the community – a daycare/Montessori school, space for another church to worship, and rental space for parties, weddings, funerals and organizations.

The flip side is that although this is a wonderful building, it is expensive to run. So we need to keep a watchful eye on our finances. We have many commitments – paying the bills, paying the staff, paying our contractors, keeping the building maintained and safe, and funding our programs.

This year we are not holding a campaign as in the past, but we are still asking and trusting you to continue your support through your offerings. Possibly you can increase the amount. Maybe this is the year you would like to go on our Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) plan. In order to give through PAR, or change your amount, please talk to Cheryl. Or maybe you can organize a fundraising event.

As we enter into a New Year let us focus on our mission.

Let us remind ourselves of what this church means to us and the community.

Coming in January we will be welcoming a new minister and a new pianist. This is an amazing start to a new chapter in the continuing story of Asbury and West. With God by our side and with your support, this chapter will surely end with...*and they lived, and served, happily ever after.*

We wish you and your loved ones a Blessed and very Merry Christmas.



*Cheryl Holliday
Acting Chair*



ARE YOU ON P.A.R.?

Have you thought about making your church donation by P.A.R. (Pre-Authorized Remittance)? Through PAR, automatic monthly withdrawals are made from your bank account. PAR is easy to set up and can be adjusted at any time should your circumstances change. If you are already on PAR, don't forget that you can increase your donation anytime. Simply speak to Cheryl Holliday, in confidence, about the process.

Thank you for your support!

COPPER KETTLE

Please drop your change in the big Copper Kettle. Folding money gratefully accepted.

Thank you for your support!





GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

A very different carol is 'Go Tell it on the Mountain', one of a number of spirituals which were included by John Wesley Work Jr in 'Folk Songs of the American Negro', a book published in 1907. Work was a professor at Fisk University in Nashville, and he compiled his collection to preserve the music of African Americans from the slave days. Some believe the song was actually composed by Work's father, Frederick Jerome Work, but the consensus view is that 'Go Tell it on the Mountain' was first written by a slave and had been sung by slaves or ex-slaves at least since 1865. The song did take on a different life in the 1960s when the great folk group Peter Paul and Mary rewrote some lyrics to turn it into a civil rights anthem, and it has become a popular song with children too. These diverse themes mean the song has been sung in a wider range of settings than almost any other 'carol' including concert halls and schools, on protest marches, and of course in churches.



MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL (M&P)

A new Ministry and Personnel Committee has been struck consisting of Vicky Brook, Linda Cobon and Lola Pinnock. We will commence our role in the New Year. Stay tuned for more info from this committee. In the meantime, have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Linda Cobon, Chair



Food Donation Items Most Needed

Canned fish and meats, canned beans, canned tomatoes, canned soups (low sodium preferable), canned vegetables, rice and quinoa, cooking oil, peanut butter, pasta and pasta sauce, flour, small boxes cereal (low sugar preferable), juice boxes, instant potatoes, nut-free snacks for kids' lunches, pudding cups, fruit cups, crackers.

Important note - No open packages, smaller quantities are easier to handle, contents in smaller jars spoil less quickly than in larger jars, items will not be given out with expired dates or if more than 3 months past its best before date.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The UCW Christmas Potluck party was held on Tuesday November 21 with 11 members in attendance. Good food and games were enjoyed including a new random gift exchange game. (See page 2)

The ladies voted to disband the UCW effective January 1, 2024 due to an aging, declining membership and increasing financial obligations to the Shining Waters Conference United Church Regional Office. Dorothy Ostrom, our retiring Treasurer and contact person will notify them of our decision.

The group will reconvene in March, in time for Easter, as a new edition of Joybreak and welcomes any ladies available on the 3rd Tuesday of each month to join us.

The Congregational Christmas Potluck Dinner was held on Saturday November 25. Thirty-five people enjoyed a wide range of food choices from roast beef and gravy to spring rolls to Portuguese dessert tarts. After dinner Christmas carols were sung followed by Reverend Dr. Malcolm Sinclair, our Christmas season minister, reading from "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas. A collection of hats, mitts and warm socks was received for the Mittens and More Tree. (See page 2)

*Best wishes for a blessed Christmas!
Kim Davidson, Chair*



Thank you to all who contributed to the issues of Flock Talk throughout the year. A special thank you to Amrita for looking after our Home Members and for those unable to receive the electronic version.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jocelyn & Sylvia



NEXT DEADLINE – Sunday, March 17, 2024

Next Edition – Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

Material accepted ANYTIME (the earlier the better). Please email the editors at:

jocelynshevalter@gmail.com or rsm56@sympatico.ca

(Articles are subject to editing for length & clarity.)



Editors' Note: Given the decades of friendship and support between our Jewish neighbours and the congregation of Asbury and West, it only seems fitting that we include a prayer for them. To that end, we reprint a prayer posted on the United Church of Canada website.

Steadfast God,

As we witness to the horrors and heartbreak in Israel and Palestine, we seek your comfort and strength, your shelter and hope, your peace and your blessings.

Bless all those who continually attempt to live your teachings of compassion and reconciliation through humanitarian aid and advocacy for those most affected by the atrocities of war. These actions are green leaves on a weakening tree, clear signs of hope, even as fear, death, and grief overwhelm.

Bless all those who mourn, whose heartbreak and sorrow are too deep for words. In their despair may your unshakeable roots protect and hold them in love. And provide us all with the strength to yearn "more than those who watch for morning" for a time when peace prevails globally and in the Middle East.

Bless all who prayerfully seek a peace that leads toward abundant life for all people. Help those of us more removed from the direct conflict to care for and support those of us who are most affected in the Middle East and in our local communities. May we honestly wrestle with our complex emotions, biases, and limited information so that we can work with others toward peace-building that is guided by justice, compassion, and mercy. Together, may we anticipate a time when Israel and Palestine will be a symbol of justice, peace, and liberation for all.

Like an olive tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream, may our commitment toward a just peace in Israel and Palestine never falter, may our hope not be uprooted, may our actions bear good fruit, may our love be steadfast.

Until freedom and justice for all comes, may it be so.

Amen.

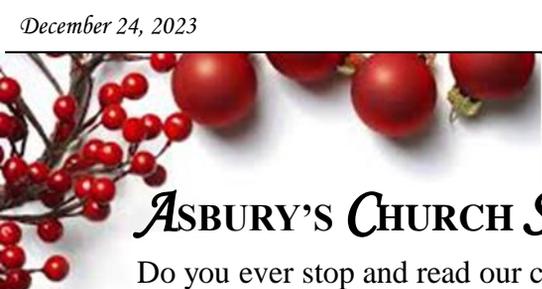


STILL, STILL, STILL

The melody for Still, Still, Still is a traditional folk tune from the Austrian state of Salzburg. The carol appeared for the first time in 1865 in a folksong collection by Maria Vinzenz Süb (1802-1868), founder of the Salzburg Museum. The words, which run between four and six verses in German, describe the peacefulness of the infant Jesus and his mother as the baby is sung to sleep. The modern version Hochdeutsch (standard German) version is attributed to Gerg Gotsch (1895-1956). There are a variety of English translations.

Editors' Note:

In our hymn book, the Austrian melody was arranged by Walter Ebret in 1963 and the words were translated by John Rutter in 1994. Rutter, a world renowned English composer, arranged a coral version published in 2016. John Rutter is one of our favorite composers.



ASBURY'S CHURCH SIGN

Do you ever stop and read our church sign? It was installed on November 9, 2020. It's one of our connections to the community. It's looked after by Amrita, our church secretary, who changes the wording each week with happenings at Asbury and inspirational messages. Here are just a few that have been displayed.

- This year is Asbury and West 211 Anniversary
- Forgive Often
- Happy Fall
- Happy November Birthdays
- November 26th service - guest pastor, Siagan
- December services led by Rev. Sinclair
- Zoom and in person worship times also in Tagalog

If you have an ideas for a message to appear on the sign, don't be shy, speak to Amrita.

Please note the office will be closed the last week of December 2023, and will be re-opened on January 2, 2024. The office hours will remain the same, Mondays to Thursdays from 3:30pm to 6:30pm.



PROPERTY MINISTRY



Cool Aid Mechanical was in for the regular maintenance. Their report shows that one of the heat exchangers for one of the furnaces were faulty and may need replacement. They have checked to see whether it was still under warranty, but unfortunately this expired in March 2023. The cost to replace it will be \$4,500 plus HST. This will be a big expense on the church.

We have been advised by the Condo Board that going forward, the shared space around the western side of the church is Asbury's responsibility for keeping it clean. We have also requested a reduction in the parking spaces which will take effective in January, 2024.

Rental: There have been quite a few casual rentals over the past months which help in our financial situation. We are also looking at the aspect of another church to join us since the departure of the Korean Methodist Church.

*Clayton Johnson & Yvonne Wright
Co-chairs*



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

It has become a tradition for Flock Talk to include a poem from the book LIVING IN THE TALL GRASS Poems of Reconciliation by Chief R. Stacey Laforme. Given all the heartbreak in the world around us, we offer a poem we can all recite.

A Prayer

God grant me the time to fulfil my role in life
 Give me the courage to face life and
 follow in your steps
 Grant me the time to teach others as
 I have been taught
 Grant me the time to set my children on your path
 When my tasks are done, when my time upon
 this plain is ended
 Take me home and shelter me within your heart
 Reunite me with those loved ones who have
 gone before me
 Place me where I may forever watch over my
 children and my children's children
 Grant my family and friends the knowledge that
 death is merely a door
 And that one day I shall be there to greet
 each and every one of them

THE HURON CAROL

The lyrics of *'The Huron Carol'* may be the most interesting of any carol, though fortunately the origins of those lyrics are less obscure than some. Also known as *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime'* this is considered the oldest Canadian carol in existence. It was written in 1643 by Jean de Brébeuf, a Jesuit missionary who had worked among the Huron Indians for many years. He wrote the lyrics of the carol in the Huron language, and although the lyrics have been amended since, it seems the intention was to make the Christmas story understandable to the Hurons by using analogies from their own lives and spiritual beliefs. Thus for the Hurons, Jesus is born *'within a lodge of broken bark'*, and wrapped in *'a ragged robe of rabbit skin'*. He is surrounded by hunters instead of shepherds, and the wise men or kings are chiefs who bring him *'fox and beaver pelts'* instead of gold, frankincense and myrrh. God is referred to as *'Gitchi Manitou'*. In 1649, de Brébeuf was killed by Iroquois Indians who attacked and destroyed his mission. But some of the Hurons who survived the attack retained memories of the carol, and when they resettled at Loretto in Quebec, another missionary, Father Étienne de Villeneuve, wrote down the words and translated them into French. The English adaptation of the lyrics was written in 1926 by Jesse Edgar Middleton, and the melody of *'The Huron Carol'* comes from a French folk song, called *'A Young Maid'*.



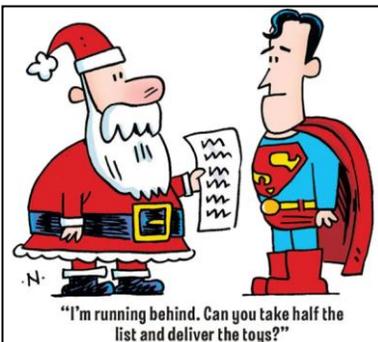
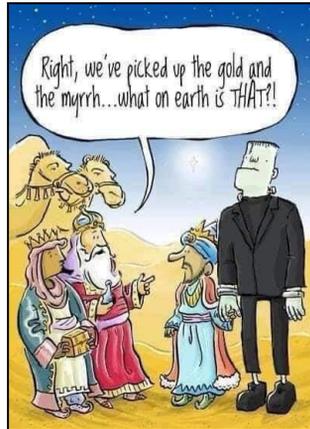


Joy To The World

Isaac Watts, one of the most prolific of all English hymn composers, published the words of 'Joy to the World' in 1719, but without intending it to become a Christmas carol. At this time, it was a belief of the Puritan tradition that only the Biblical psalms should be sung in worship - human compositions were not worthy to be compared with these 'divine pieces'. But some - including Watts - felt that the psalms were not at all easy to sing. They could be said to be dreary. 'Joy to the World' was Watt's adaptation of Psalm 98 to turn it into a popular, singable hymn. The tune 'Antioch' to which the words are usually sung, was added to the lyrics of Watts in a collection of hymns put together by the American church musician Dr Lowell Mason more than a hundred years later in 1839. 'Antioch' contained a brief notation 'from Handel' leading to the belief that the tune was at least partially based on a theme by the great composer Handel. Mason's combination of this tune and Isaac Watts's words has made 'Joy to the World' one of the most familiar of all carols.



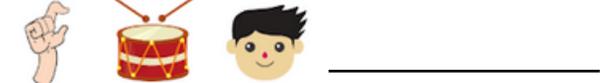
Kids Korner



GAMES PLUS MORE



Christmas Song Emoji Game (guess the song using the emoji's)



(See Emoji Answers on page 18.)





Look at the Candy Cane
 What do you see?
 Stripes that are red
 Like the blood shed for me
 White is for my Savior
 Who's sinless and pure!
 "J" is for Jesus My Lord,
 that's for sure!
 Turn it around
 And a staff you will see
 Jesus my shepherd
 Was born for Me!

A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would remind people of the true meaning of Christmas; so he made the candy cane to incorporate several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and the firmness of the promises of God.

The candy maker then shaped his cane into the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to the earth as Savior. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down to reclaim the fallen lambs who, like sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.

MINISTRIES AND COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS
Chair: Vacancy

**MEMBERSHIP AND
PASTORAL CARE**
Chair: Ianthe Spencer

**MINISTRY & PERSONNEL
(M&P)**
Chair: Linda Cobon

PROPERTY
Co-Chairs: Clayton Johnson &
 Yvonne Wright

STEWARDSHIP
Chair: Vacant
Secretary: Cheryl Holliday

**WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**
Rotating Chair: Lisa Crawford,
 Cheryl Holliday

WOMEN'S MINISTRY
Chair: Kim Davidson

MEMORIAL Committee
 Cheryl Holliday, David Tuck

**SHINING WATER
REGION COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE**
 Vacancy

**CONGREGATIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**
 You are welcome to
 attend any meeting of Council.

COUNCIL
Chair: Melvyn Beckles

COME JOIN US UPCOMING EVENTS...

December

- Sun Dec 24 - Service at 10:30 a.m. celebrating Advent IV, Christmas Sunday and Communion. Christmas offerings will be received and benevolent offering envelopes will be available for our outreach project, The Children's Breakfast Club at Baycrest School.

Note: There will be no evening Christmas Eve Service.

January 2024

- Mon Jan 1 - Happy New Year!
Sun Jan 7 - Epiphany Sunday

February

- Fri Feb 2 - Groundhog Day
Wed Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday
Wed Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
Mon Feb 19 - Family Day

March

- Sat Mar 11 - Daylight Savings Time starts at 1am March 12, put clocks ahead 1 hour
Sun Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day
Sun Mar 24 - Palm Sunday
Thurs Mar 28 - Maundy Thursday
Sun Mar 17 - Flock Deadline for Easter Edition
Fri Mar 29 - Good Friday
Sun Mar 31 - Easter Sunday...Hallelujah!



Christmas Song Emoji Answers

Joy to the World, Silver Bells, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, O Holy Night, I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus, White Christmas, Silent Night, Little Drummer Boy, We Three Kings, Baby It's Cold Outside

LEFTOVER TURKEY POT PIE SOUP

(Source: Butterball Turkey Website)

Ingredients

3 cups leftover turkey, cubed
1 Tbsp olive oil
1/2 cup celery, chopped
1 onion, chopped
1 tsp dried oregano
1/2 Tbsp Italian seasoning
1/2 tsp each dried sage, thyme, dill & turmeric
2 tsp garlic, minced
1 cup carrots, chopped
1 1/2 cups potatoes, cubed
2 chicken bouillon cubes
8 cups water
cornstarch slurry (2 Tbsp cornstarch + 2 Tbsp cold water, stirred together)
1/2 cup whipping cream
1 unbaked pie crust

Directions

Cut pie crust into circles (that will fit into your soup bowls) and bake as directed on the package. Heat oil in a large pot, on medium heat. Add celery, spices, onion and garlic and saute 3-5 minutes. Add carrots, potato, turkey and bouillon cubes, Add water and stir till boiling. Lower to simmer, cover and cook for 30-40 minutes. Increase heat to medium and stir in cornstarch slurry, cook for 5 minutes and stir. Reduce heat to low and stir in whipping cream, add salt and pepper to taste. Ladle into bowls and top each with a circle of baked pie crust. Serve and enjoy. Don't forget to say grace!





MERRY CHRISTMAS

1 of 5 Luke 2:1-21

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. ²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

Asbury and West, acknowledges the sacred land on which our church stands. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory. We are also mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations. The original nations continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work toward justice and reconciliation.



Asbury and West’s Website continues to be updated. For the most current information about events, go to our web page at [asburyandwest.org](http://www.asburyandwest.org) and click on the blog link (just below the scrolling pictures).