

“The Spirit”

North Kildonan United Church

November 2021



O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels,
O Come let us adore Him. Christ the Lord.

This beloved hymn was first published in 1751 and continues to be sung throughout the Christian world. It appears to sum up the end of waiting during advent, with the joyful birth of Jesus. How wonderful that we can gather, at long last, as a faith community to celebrate the joyous Christmas season together.

It's been a long and arduous journey for us all. At times it seems the pandemic is waning and then we are hit again with a setback; something we cannot control. Although discouraged, we continue to hope for its end, for hope is the promise found in Jeremiah's ancient wisdom, that in the midst of darkness, faith shines a light that illumines our path and shows us a way.

Wrap your Christmas in prayer for front line workers, those most vulnerable, those who mourn, those who are isolated or lonely. Wrap your Christmas in prayers of thanksgiving for the many blessings that God has given. Celebrate with hope, peace, joy and love the gift of Jesus for where there is hope, love, light and life, the plan and purpose of God will reach.

May the gift of Jesus light your life and God's love surround you always. Merry Christmas. -S.M.



Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

-from the hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord.

-Psalm 27:14



We pray for our friends and family in British Columbia as they struggle with devastation from floods, mudslides and destruction of infrastructure. We also pray with gratitude for the Canadian Armed Forces who respond with help and support in all situations.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING



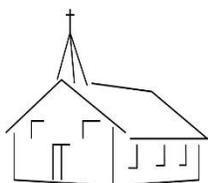
With the blanket of snow outside and the chill in the air, we are reminded that Christmas will soon be upon us. Like the never-ending seasonal displays at the malls, Christmas preparations are well underway at NKUC. While COVID-19 continues to be much in evidence, as much as possible, we will try to maintain the traditions of the Christmas season that are important to us.

As always, the highlight of our Christmas celebration will be the Christmas Eve service, at 7 p.m. on December 24, featuring carols and lessons. This year's service will include our wonderful choir, along with some special features, such as a soloist and/or percussionist. Members of our faith community, who are fully vaccinated, will be able to participate in person at this service.

Since the first Sunday after Christmas falls on Boxing Day this year, we will not be holding a worship service, to provide Rev. Don and the worship volunteers with a well-deserved break, and to enable all of us to recover from the turmoil of Christmas Day. Our regular services will resume on January 2, 2022.

Our Blue Christmas service, on December 15 at 7 p.m., will also welcome all who are fully vaccinated to participate in person. This service provides a meaningful opportunity to recognize that Christmas for many is a time of sadness, rather than joy. While worshipping together, we can support one another through our sense of loss and instill a sense of optimism for the future.

We look forward to future Christmas services, to decorating the Christmas trees by the whole faith community and lighting candles while singing Silent Night at the Christmas Eve service. Rather than focusing on what we cannot do this year, let us celebrate the opportunity to worship together during this very special season of the Church year.



*You are invited to Christmas services
at North Kildonan United.*

December 12 - Youth Christmas Presentation - 10 a.m.

December 15 - Blue Christmas service - 7 p.m.

December 24 - Christmas Eve service - 7 p.m.

January 2, 2022 - Our first service for 2022

NOTE: December 26 - there will be no service on this day.

Thank you....

- Worship committee for their continued diligence in providing support for our worship services. They quietly go about their work ensuring a safe place for our congregation to meet.
- Rev Don for his inspiring and uplifting messages and for care and support he gives to our community of faith.
- All those who supported the stewardship campaign, the special appeal promotion and who continue to financially support our congregation.



- Heinz, Clayton, Scotty, John R., Ron H., Dennis (missing from photo) – who painted the ramp at the church.



Enjoying coffee together after church for the first time. Thanks hospitality committee!

Thank you **Marvelle** for your long service as Volunteer Coordinator. Your gift of time, encouragement, generosity and dedication has made our community of faith function in a smooth and efficient way. We are so fortunate to have you and your family as part of our congregation. May God continue to bless you all.

THANK YOU!

News from the Pews.....



Our sincere sympathy is extended to:

-Rick, Chris & their families as they mourn the loss of Terry Quinn.
-Jesse Santin, Aldo Santin & Pam Pyke on the passing of Pam's mother,
Muriel Pyke.



Over the last several months, members of our congregation have been ill, undergone surgery or sustained an injury. Many are back in church and we're happy to see them. Best wishes:
Dorothy Franklin Peggy Latimer Elvera Kirk
Kim Todd Tammy McPherson

We continue to pray for those who are struggling with illness, isolation or loneliness. Keep in touch with each other. A simple phone call or email may make a world of difference to someone in the family, a friend or in our community of faith. We are in this together. Stay strong.

Our thoughts and prayers are with [Michael McKay](#) as he left our congregation at the end of September to return to family in Nova Scotia. His beautiful music not only amazed us but uplifted our hearts during the pandemic. Good luck and God bless.

On that note,  we welcome [Joanne Diplock](#) to our music ministry. Joanne is an exceptional and gifted musician and we are truly blessed to have her join our community of faith. She has also embraced her job as choir director selecting inspiring anthems for our choir. Welcome Joanne!



The annual Stewardship Campaign for the 2022 fiscal year wrapped up on Sunday, November 14th. Our goal was a pledged offering revenue of just over \$127,000. At the close of the campaign, we achieved a commitment for \$84,040 on 47 pledges out of a possible 125 identifiable givers in our community of faith. We plan to do a little more fundraising in 2022, but we continue to rely greatly on our weekly offering to meet expenses. We are very thankful for all who have made their pledge and we ask that you prayerfully continue to support our congregation as you are able.

NOTE: We are pleased to report that Morden's chocolate sales have been strong with the chocolates arriving Monday, November 29th. You will be called when your order is ready for pickup. Thanks for your support.

-Clayton Gording, Chair



Christmas Cheer Board drive – the Senior Youth Group will be coordinating a food drive for the Christmas Cheer Board in December. Non-perishable goods may be brought to the church beginning Nov. 28th.

Clayton and Heinz donated some time and carpentry expertise to West Broadway Community Ministry doing some much needed repairs.

Once again, NKUC will be collecting hats, scarves and mitts for *Koats for Kids*. Thanks to Peggy who will take the lead in setting up this donation drive.

Congratulations to Glynis Quinn, appointed interim Executive Director for 1JustCity replacing Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud who was appointed CEO of Siloam Mission. As former Executive Director of 1JustCity, Tessa did a wonderful job, having been involved with 1JustCity from its inception. Good luck Glynis and Tessa.



Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, boxes of food items were delivered to West Broadway CM in conjunction with Thanksgiving and World Food Sunday. Staff and clients were most grateful for our continued support.



November 7 saw the congregation of North Kildonan United share in a Remembrance Day service. Rev. Don gave a meaningful message and our choir sang a lovely song of peace.

It has been tradition to enjoy tea and refreshments following the service. Due to restrictions, this could not be accomplished. However, our hospitality committee did not forget but provided a delicious box lunch complete with fancy sandwiches and dainties to take home and enjoy. Thank you to all who provided this wonderful lunch. The tradition carries on!

A Modern Christmas

Trim the tree, adorn the door
A shopping spree, scrub the floor.
Wrap some packages, label a box
It could be a shirt, or maybe socks.



Address the cards, keep in touch,
A lot to do, so very much.
On the computer, write a letter,
That much done, I feel better.



Mail a special holiday card,
Put decorations in the yard.
Roll out cookies bake a few pies
Watch the oven, with twinkling eyes.

Reflecting in the dark of night,
I begin to see the Christmas light.
I've got to stop, slow my frantic pace,
This is a holiday, not a race.

What I wish for you and yours
Can't be bought in any stores.
Peace and love, hope and joy
Smiles and laughter ever after.



Editor's Note: We are always looking for pictures, poems and stories about our church family. Please feel free to submit articles to Sheron at miller01@mymts.net or call the church office at 204-667-7408. Thank you to the following who contributed to this newsletter:

Peter Latimer Sheron Miller Marvelle McPherson Clayton Gording

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Get vaccinated - Encourage others to get vaccinated - wear a mask.