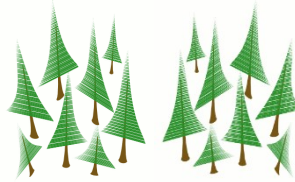




**Carlisle
United
Church**

Newsletter



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Winter 2021

An Advent Letter

Hello Dear Friends,

In the early church, the faithful gathered in the weeks coming up to the great feasts of the church and wondered, was this the year that He would return? Over the years, the urgency of our expectation has dulled. But we are waiting, with a longing, an urgency that has not dulled. Along with the whole wide world, not just those who follow the creed of Christ, we are waiting. Waiting to be able to gather in our Happy Holidays in the coming weeks for the 14 faith groups who celebrate different types of gatherings. Longing to embrace old friends from church. Longing to embrace children, grandchildren, mothers, fathers and friends. Longing for touch. Longing for freedom. Longing to be unmasked, for us to uncover our faces, as we long for God to uncover Her face to us.

This sense of urgency gives us lens into the longing and purpose of the church. In the months that we have been apart, we have had another kind of pandemic in our pastoral community. I have had 20 funerals (not all connected to this pastoral charge) since August. It has reminded me, in a somewhat exhausting way, that we people of faith have one foot in faith in this world, striving to bring the kin-dom of God to the world around us, and another one promising the kin-dom of God, in eternity, in a world or worlds to come.

I hope that we are able to gather meaningfully this Advent. I look forward to Advent wreaths and Christmas candles, to carols and songs, to the Bethlehem Experience – an outdoor walk through the Christmas Story. I look forward to our Blue Christmas service and to the relief of proclaiming His birth and the expectation that this will come. I hope that we can gather together. That we can at least bow and wish each other well across the social distance. I hope that you can gather with those you love, as I gather with Larry and my girls this Christmas with the grandchildren. But we do not know, so we hope and wait, hope and wait. And as I think about the funerals, those who have gone elsewhere, whom we hold in our hearts, I hope and wait, hope and wait.

This confession of my faith is, I know, a collective confession of our faith. I am blessed to be amongst you. This has been a challenging time to start a new pastoral relationship, where we have hoped and waited together and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for how we have hoped and waited together, for your grace and caring. It is what one needs as one hopes and waits – comfort, caring and kindness. May we reflect these gifts that we have amongst each other to our broader communities, regardless of their creed and may we create a space in our hoping and waiting for Their Coming in this place.

In Hope and Love,
Rev. Allison

Upcoming Events:

Wednesdays at 10 am: Men's Coffee Hour. Meet in the Carlisle Church parlour to share coffee and conversation.

Thursdays (1st and 3rd of the month): Devotional Group.

Sundays at 1 pm: Zoom Coffee Hour. Link is in the Events Calendar on the website.

Sunday November 21 at 11 am: Reign of Christ Sunday. Introduction of "Godly Play"; blessing of the prayer shawls; Mitten Tree.

Saturday November 27 from 9 to 12: Scout Bottle Drive. Parking lot.

Saturday November 27 from 10 to 2: Christmas Bazaar and Artisan & Vendor Sale. Details in U.C.W. report, page 5.

Sunday November 28 at 11 am: Advent 1. Baptism.

Sunday December 5 at 11 am: Advent 2. Communion.

Sunday December 12 at 11 am: Advent 3.

Sunday December 12 at 3 pm: Blue Christmas service.

Sunday December 19 at 11 am: Advent 4.

Sunday December 19 from 2 to 4 pm: Bethlehem Experience. Register for a time slot at secretary@carlisleuc.ca.

Wednesday December 24 at 4:30 pm: Family Christmas service. Godly Play.

Wednesday December 24 at 10 pm: Candlelight and Communion Service.

Sunday December 26 at 10 am: Joint service in Carlisle.



Sunday January 23: Covenanting Service for Rev. Allison. Details to be announced.

Prayer Circle

The Prayer Circle has resumed our monthly meetings, assembling now in the Gathering Room. We continue to meet on the second Monday of the month at 12:45 pm to share concerns and update our list of prayer requests. Our next meeting will be on **Monday December 13.**

As part of our ministry, we are privileged to offer prayer shawls to people who are experiencing illness or grief. Hopefully these gifts provide a sense of God's healing presence and comfort. Sincere thanks are offered to those gifted knitters who faithfully and prayerfully create these shawls. Plans are underway to dedicate a number of prayer shawls during our church service on **Sunday November 21.**

Joan Eagle



Dorothy Lambert, mother of Maureen Trenkler, enjoying her prayer shawl. Thanks to all the knitters and crocheters for this warm-hearted outreach.

Message to Migrant Workers

Dear friends from the fields, farms and nurseries,

The people of Kilbride and Carlisle want to let you know that we miss you. We miss your company at our dinners, we miss your ready smiles, we miss your sense of fun. Now when October drenches our northern landscapes with brilliant colour, we are reminded of the work of your unseen hands bringing us a profusion of fall vegetables, fruits and flowers. As we sat with family to enjoy a Thanksgiving feast, we were again reminded that you are far from your families and all who love you.

We will always be grateful for the vital work you do and thank God for your presence among us. Soon many of you will be leaving us to return to your warm homelands. As we make preparations for another Canadian winter, you will be in our thoughts. We look forward to spring when we hope to once more share times of fellowship with you.

Wishing you a joyful reunion with your families, travel well and safely. See you in the spring!

From the people of Carlisle and
Kilbride United Churches.

Mensaje a los Trabajadores Inmigrantes

Estimados amigos de los campos, granjas y viveros:

La gente de Kildride y Carlisle quieren que ustedes sepan que los hemos extrañado. Extrañamos su compañía en nuestras cenas, extrañamos sus sonrisas a flor de labios, extrañamos su sentido de humor.

Ahora que octubre llena nuestros paisajes del norte con colores brillantes, recordamos el trabajo de esas manos invisibles que traen abundancia de vegetales, frutas y flores. Al momento de sentarnos con nuestras familias a disfrutar del banquete the Acción de Gracias, nuevamente recordamos que ustedes están lejos de sus familias y todas las personas que los aman.

Siempre nos sentiremos agradecidos por el trabajo vital que ustedes realizan y agradecemos a Dios por su presencia entre nosotros.

Pronto, muchos de ustedes nos dejarán para regresar a sus cálidas patrias. Mientras nos preparamos para otro invierno canadiense, ustedes estarán en nuestros pensamientos. Esperaremos la primavera para poder compartir una vez más momentos de camaradería con ustedes.

Deseándoles un muy feliz reencuentro con sus familiares, esperamos tengan un buen viaje y por favor protejanse.

¡Los veremos and la primavera!

De la gente de las Iglesias Unidas dhe
Carlisle and Kilbride.

Migrant Workers News: With pandemic restrictions still curtailing our outreach, but unwilling to let our migrant friends depart without a fitting farewell, Sharon and Catherine recently delivered this message to the farms. We were assisted in the production by Paula Rodrigues (translator) and Jennifer Harvey (illustrator). We believe it echoes the sentiments of us all.

Shred that Stuff!

Our first paper shredding event was a big success. Held on Saturday October 2 from 10 to 1, we welcomed many vehicles with large and small loads of items for shredding. The Papersavers organization did a fine job of moving folks through. Thanks to the volunteers who looked after traffic directing, collecting funds, unloading containers for shredding and collapsing boxes. Special mention should be made of the younger volunteers whose boundless energy made our work so much easier. Profit for the event was approximately \$2,100. We are keen to offer another shredding event early next Fall.

Drive Thru Chicken Dinner

Our first drive thru chicken dinner was held on Saturday September 18 from 4:30 to 6:30. It was a total sell-out, with 306 dinners pre-ordered on the website or by phone. Profit for the event was approximately \$3,700. Some leftovers were sold and others were donated to the Flamborough Food Bank. Huge thanks to the many volunteers who prepared food, assembled dinners, coordinated advertising, ticket sales and parking lot traffic, and the many other behind-the-scenes jobs that ensured the success of this fund-raiser. We were particularly proud that all of our packaging was biodegradable!



Bethlehem Experience!

The Christmas story will come to life at Carlisle United Church **on Sunday December 19 from 2 to 4 pm**. Several local churches were in conversation last year about joining forces to organize this outdoor installation, but plans were halted due to pandemic restrictions. This year, however, preparations have resumed!

You will be invited to contact the Church to book a time slot for your family to visit the installation. Expect to park your vehicle in the lot and walk around to five different stations set up in the field behind the Church. Each carload will be personally led by a Church volunteer who will guide your journey to Bethlehem and maintain social distancing between groups. There will be volunteers in costume, constructed sets, acting, music, cookies... and you are likely to meet angels and shepherds, wise ones, and even the Holy Family along the path.

We are so excited to be able to join with other local churches to offer this joyful community event this December, in accordance with government health and safety guidelines, and to share the wonder of the Christmas story in an engaging and interactive way. Keep your eyes and ears open for further details as we get closer to the date, and, in the meantime... mark your calendars!

Heather Olaveson

O who will direct me to Bethlehemtown
For brightness has hidden the way.
And tinsel distractions have stolen from view
the infant asleep on the hay.

O come and go with me to Bethlehemtown
And shielding our eyes from the flare.
We'll bow in a stable as starlight shines down
And quietly worship Him there.

O who will direct me to Bethlehemtown?
For clamor has deafened the ear.
The shouting of merchants has muffled the song
of angel choirs hovering near.

O come and go with me to Bethlehemtown,
and shielding our ears from the blare
We'll bow in a stable as singing floats down,
and quietly worship Him there.

O come all you people to Bethlehemtown.
Leave all of the glitter behind.
Leave diamonds and rubies and silver and gold,
the richest of treasures to find.

O come and go with me to Bethlehemtown,
And shielding our hearts from the glare.
We'll bow in a stable where God has come down
and quietly worship Him there.

*Words from the choral music "Bethlehemtown" by
Robert Clatterbuck, Hope Publishing Co.*

Men's Group

The Men's Group continues to meet each **Wednesday at 10 am** in the Carlisle Church parlour, for an informal discussion of current issues over coffee and treats. At this point, there is not a formal agenda but we hope to view selected videos for discussion, plan some field trips and explore other ideas.

Please join us.
Masks and proof of
vaccination are
required.



U.C.W. Christmas Bazaar and Artisan and Vendor Sale

Hope to see you all on **Saturday November 27 from 10 am to 2 pm** at the Church!!

At the Bazaar this year we are going back in time – about 15 years. At that time, we had a room for our Bazaar goodies and another room for the Artisans & Vendors.

This year the Artisan & Vendor sale will be in the Christian Education room and will be offering milk bag purses, scrimshaw work, quilted items, stained glass, painted items, jewellery, hand creatures and lavender products. This is only a partial list and can change at any time.

The U.C.W. Christmas Bazaar will be in the Gathering Room. This year we have both Deli and craft items. Our Deli items include pies, light & dark Christmas cakes, Christmas puddings, two kinds of quiche, cabbage rolls (4 or 2 per package), two varieties of tarts, chocolate-coated caramel corn, squares, cookies and tea biscuits. So far, we have 20 kinds of jams & jellies and 9 varieties of pickles & relishes. In the Craft area, we have hats, mitts, scarves, shawls, catnip mice, gift tags, kitchen towel packages, cotton dishcloths, scrubbies, microwave bowl cozies in 2 sizes, microwave potato bags, produce bags in 3 sizes & styles, tote bags and mug rugs.

The ladies of the U.C.W. have worked very hard to produce all our wonderful merchandise and hope that you will support our fund-raising effort. At our December meeting we will give donations to many local, deserving groups.

Just a reminder ~ everyone must sign in, provide proof of double vaccination with ID and wear a mask at all times. Only 35 customers will be allowed at any time. The Christmas Bazaar will be cash only.

We hope to see you on **November 27**. Please tell all your friends and neighbours too.

Judy Parkin

News from Kilbride

Kilbride United Church celebrated All Hallows Eve, the day before All Soul's Day on October 31. This is the day when we recall the presence of all the souls around us. We received a butterfly cut-out as we entered the sanctuary. We were invited to write on the butterfly the name of the saints we cherish who have been a gift in our life. Thank you to the men's group who prepared the colourful butterflies and Heather Olaveson for her beautiful Taizé music. The opening hymn "*Where Two or Three are Gathered*", sung and hummed quietly, was a beautiful way to begin our gathering for worship.



After the service, Rev. Allison Playfair is reflecting on the lit candles and colourful butterflies with the names of Kilbride United Church Saints.

Covenanting Service for Rev. Allison

A Service of Covenanting celebrates the new relationship between a local church, the Presbytery and the minister newly called or appointed to serve. It is an important ritual of welcoming a new minister and agreeing to work together in bringing God's word to the membership and the community. Due to COVID, the covenanting service welcoming Rev. Allison Playfair has been delayed. We are hoping to celebrate a Covenanting service on **Sunday January 23**. More details will be provided when everything is confirmed.

Mary Gilbert, Search Committee

Wesley Centre Christmas Mission

Dear Members of Kilbride and Carlisle,

Last year your generous support of the Wesley Christmas Store enabled 2,764 Holiday Hampers and 5,000 emergency meals a week to be provided for those in the community who required this support, and also shelter from the cold for many.

Due to COVID, the program will again not operate as a store this season. Clients will be submitting wish lists with help from Wesley staff and their community partners. Hampers will be delivered in accordance with COVID rules.

We are able to help by donating online, by e-transfer, by cheque or by phoning 905-528-5629. The address is 52 Catherine Street, Hamilton ON L8R 1J1. If you donated last year, Wesley may contact you directly through their mailing system.

Students and the staff at Kilbride Public School are looking forward to their Wesley food drive where math skills of graphing, calculating and weighing are applied in a real-life assistance endeavour. The classes work diligently and enthusiastically with parents' assistance to "weigh in".

Carlisle's Mitten Tree will be ready on **November 21** for your contributions of warm mitts, gloves, hats and scarves. Your generous donations have filled the front pews beside the tree for many years now. These will be delivered to Pioneer United Church on **December 12** after Church, for inclusion in the hampers. Please consider contributing again as the Farmer's Almanac has predicted a stormy December and January!



Gratefully, Sharon Banks and Lynn Gladstone

Finance Update

This year has been very difficult for all of us. Due to COVID, we have missed gathering with friends, family and our church family. Its also taken a toll on our church finances.

Our Givings to the end of October are \$54,270, down \$13,400 or 20% compared to last year. This decline was partially offset by our various fundraising events which netted \$11,300 profit and by the Government wage subsidy programs. Our expenses are comparable to last year and in-line with budget. The deficit at October 31 is \$25,000, about \$4,000 greater than last year. On a positive note, Mission & Service donations are 16% greater than last year.

Looking ahead to the remainder of our fiscal year, to achieve our annual Givings budget of \$97,000 we need to receive a total of \$42,700 in November and December – a significant goal. The wage subsidy programs have now ended, so we can't count on that income to offset our Givings shortfall.

As we enter Advent and the season of giving, we ask you to consider a year end top-up of your offerings to help close the gap to our budget.

THANK YOU for your support in 2021 and I trust you will continue your generosity in 2022.

Barry Gilbert, Treasurer

Property Committee

As with any aging building, we have a number of maintenance concerns requiring attention. The Church is in desperate need of volunteers to assist or to co-ordinate some of these issues. Some jobs just need a supervisor or someone to open the door for a tradesman. Please contact Bob Moulder or Dave Walker if you are able to help.

History Is Alive in Carlisle and Kilbride

Carlisle received a treat this Remembrance Sunday (November 7) when, following Rev. Allison Playfair's beautiful litany calling for and committing to nurturing peace, Arlene Munro took to the microphone to share a wartime story of personal significance. She told the story of Arthur Penfold, an English "home child" who immigrated to Canada at the age of nine in order to learn and work as a farm labourer, having been placed with Arlene's family in Carlisle. Arthur, whose name appears on a commemorative plaque here at Carlisle United, later returned to Europe to serve in WWI after enlisting as a soldier at age seventeen.

I'd like to thank Arlene for her storytelling ministry, which not only gave listeners the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices many have made and are currently making to uphold human rights and to nurture peace, but also gave us the opportunity to explore our own church and community history. Arlene's carefully crafted presentation was accompanied by a series of photographs demonstrating the depth of her research and her passion for history. This generous gift of story was so engaging and meaningful, reminding us that the Roll Call of Honour is not simply a list of names, but a tribute to that small but significant group of community members who put their lives on hold to help bring about peace in the world.

This memorable Remembrance Sunday comes on the heels of several other significant historical projects in Carlisle and Kilbride. As unveiled in the last newsletter, Arlene's and Cathy Moulder's publication *Carlisle United Church: Memorial Stained Glass Windows* has been released from the printer, and I am so happy I put my order in for a copy! The book celebrates the sanctuary's wealth of stained glass in a series of stunning photographs accompanied by details about the windows' religious symbolism and information about the people being remembered. Congregation members generously shared family

photographs and memories, helping to make the stories even more intimate and meaningful. It is a joy to learn so many new and interesting things about the sanctuary I visit and the people I see each week.

Community history also continues to be collected, valued and shared by the Kilbride History Group, which was founded in 2019 and meets monthly at Kilbride United Church. If you have a moment or three, check out their webpage at kilbridehistory.com – I've been enjoying reading everything from recollections of long-time residents to information on wool processing in the nineteenth century and, more recently, articles on the dedication bench for Marianne Schuett and on Kilbride United's 161st anniversary, which was celebrated just last month. In addition, on August 8 the Kilbride History Group organized a guided historic walking tour of the village as part of Heritage Week for the City of Burlington. I remain hopeful that similar events might be organized in the future – I will be an eager attendee!

This November, as we remember and honour those who have served, sacrificed, and continue to work for justice and peace, we also remember and celebrate the richness of our own church and community heritage. Expanding our knowledge of our past will only continue to increase our understanding of our present, and will allow us to better strive for right relations with all.

Heather Olaveson



Poinsettia Fund-Raiser

When my sister Stephanie passed in March 2018 with complications from Multiple System Atrophy (MSA), our family promised to continue her legacy by creating a "Stephanie Lambert Pust Memorial Fund" for the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation. Stephanie was a nurse and nurse manager at St. Joseph's Hospital for almost 30 years and widely known for her mentorship of nursing staff. For the fourth year we will be selling Poinsettias and Planters under the Terra Greenhouse Fundraising Program with proceeds to her fund. The fund provides an annual \$500 bursary for further education of a deserving nurse. If you would like a product and pricing list, please contact me at mmtrenkler@gmail.com. Orders are due by **Thursday November 18**, with delivery on or after **Wednesday December 1**.

Maureen Trenkler

Logistics Committee

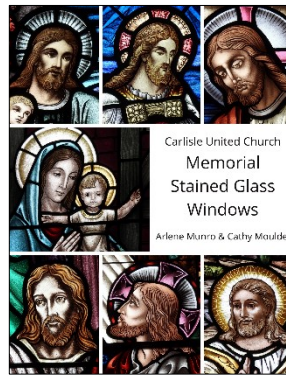
The Logistics Group continues to meet with a view to reconciling our Church practices to changing COVID protocols. We ask that groups planning Church events provide a plan outlining how they will meet protocols, in order to make the event as safe as possible.

Zoom Coffee Hour

In the absence of an after-church coffee hour, we have resumed our weekly social meeting on Zoom ~ **Sundays at 1:00 pm**. The link for the Zoom meeting can be found in the Events Calendar on the Church website (<https://www.carlisleuc.ca>). We are enjoying lots of different topics, and it's so nice to see the faces of our Church family members, especially those who are not able to get out to Sunday service.

Please join us whenever you are able.

Carlisle United Church Memorial Stained Glass Windows



Thank you to everyone who has welcomed our project with so much enthusiasm! Arlene and I have been overwhelmed by the book sales and by the generous feedback that we have received. We are delighted to say that we have distributed over 70 copies of the book, with only one person saying facetiously that our price was too high! And we have covered our costs, so a donation will be made to the Church in December.

There are still a few copies of the book available. If you need a last-minute Christmas gift, please call Arlene at 905-689-5586.

Cathy Moulder



The Sewing Circle recently received a donation of notions from a kind person who was impressed with our work as displayed on the website. If you can use any of these items (buttons, zippers, elastic, hooks), please contact Mary Gilbert.

Thanks to Stella Preda for sharing this meaningful little poem as a Remembrance Day tribute:

A Soldier's Prayer

Dear God,

Let my heart
never forget how to love
though hate may surface at times

Give me the strength and courage
to endure
though life may not be spared

Grant that my soul and spirit
survive
though my body may be dead

Allow our children and theirs
to sample
life without bloodshed and hate

Guide us to the peace we seek;
open our
eyes and hearts to those in need

Help us now to understand;
teach us
tolerance and compassion

Shower blessings on this world;
forgive us
for the destruction we cause

Amen

*Photos on the right show just some of the action at the Drive Thru Chicken Dinner on September 18. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this fundraiser a success ~ and fun for all!
(Photos courtesy of Janet Heeley and Mel Gilbert)*





In the Fall Newsletter, we featured a photo of one of "The True Vines" which Lynn Gladstone distributed at a worship service earlier this year. Here are three others, all thriving. Top photo at Swattens'; bottom left at Linda Dodman's and bottom right at Gilberts'. Thanks again to Lynn for this lasting gift.



Photos from the paper shredding fund-raiser on October 2 (courtesy of Gord Eagle and Mary Gilbert)