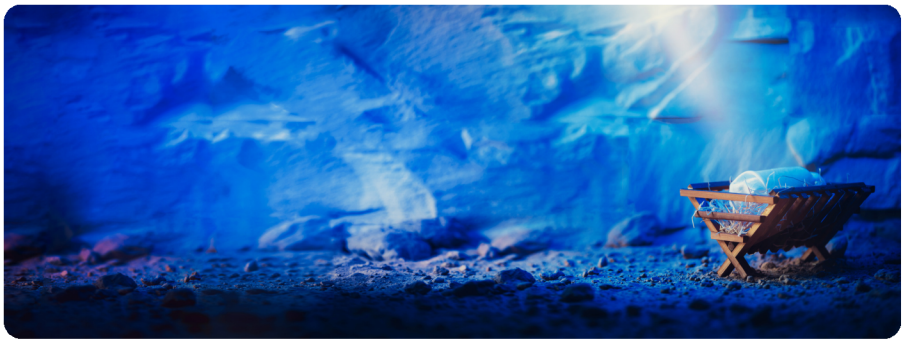
AVON UNITED NEWSLETTER

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Dear Siblings in Christ,

This is one of the mysteries I love most about our faith: God is not some Divine being far away, **God is so very near to us**—as close as a baby's first cry or a dying man's last breath.



As Christians, we experience the presence of Immanuel—*God with us*—in Jesus' life, but throughout the Gospels, Jesus says that we also meet him "whenever two or three are gathered in my name," and "whenever you do this to the least of these". **Whenever we are in community, we encounter the presence of Immanuel, if only we are aware enough to notice.**

Advent is a four-week season before Christmas when we seek to open our hearts to the presence of *God with us*. So, to better help us open our eyes to the presence of *God with us* ***already***, Avon United is taking time this Advent to meet our neighbours by listening to their stories and wondering how our church could be more involved with what they are passionate about.

From November 29th–December 20th, we are setting aside our regular sermon time in worship to hear guest speakers from different organizations so that we can build deeper, stronger relationships within our community.

Please join me in welcoming Pam Coulter and Cath Morley from the new community service AvonLink (Nov 29th), and Kate Sircom from the Hantsport Refugee Sponsorship Group (Dec 6th), and Ally Loiselle, the SchoolsPlus Facilitator for the Horton Family of Schools (Dec 13th).

I encourage you to come and listen to their wisdom, and wonder with your siblings in Christ at how God is calling us to be in community these days!

As we go into this season of Advent, may the eyes of our eyes be open to the presence of God with us in all times and places. Thanks be to God!

Rev. Penny Nelson

"All this took place to fulfill what God had spoken through the prophet: 'The young woman shall be with child and will give birth to a son, and they shall call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us'." (Matthew 1:23)