



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH, SMITHS FALLS

THE COMMUNICATOR

CHRISTMAS 2021 EDITION

Trinity United
Church Smiths
Falls

www.trinityunitedsf.com

<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityUnitedChurchSmithsFalls>

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Christmas Message from Reverend Christopher

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child
wrapped in bands of cloth and
lying in a manger."

Luke 2: 8 - 12

What did a normal birth look like in first century Judea?

Like today, the mother and her family would prepare for the birth. This was difficult, if not impossible, for Mary while on the way to Bethlehem.

A Midwife would be common. However, if even the very basic need of a place to stay, like a room in the Inn was not available or pre-planned; was there a Midwife? There is no mention of one.

It was common to be surrounded by familiar, supporting folk. What about family and friends? Mary and Joseph were not at home so even this sense of normal or ordinary was absent.

We celebrate Christmas as an extraordinary birth. However, "extraordinary" means "outside of ordinary." "Outside of ordinary" may mean "greater than" or "less than." The birth of Jesus was quite "less than ordinary." Giving birth in a manger is akin to an elevator, a taxi cab or Walmart ... It happens and is extraordinary because it is less than ordinary, absent of ordinary comforts and



assistance. Yet, this “less than ordinary” setting marked the beginning of the greatest act of God’s extraordinary Grace.

This Christmas will be celebrated during our second “less than ordinary” year. Travel is limited for some. Employment is less secure for some. The supply chain is compromised. Concerns regarding inflation may be reducing confidence in the future. Many may feel that their whole life has been relegated to the Manger. Yet, it is here in this “less than ordinary” setting and time that we “find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

It is here too, in this “less than ordinary” time, that we may find an opportunity to be like ordinary shepherds, receiving and relaying a message of hope, peace, joy and love. When life seems “less than ordinary,” such gifts are much needed and wonderful. Share these gifts freely, you find in them an abundance of God’s extraordinary Grace. *Merry Christmas, Reverend Christopher*

Ministry and Personnel

Our committee consists of Carolyn Lunn, Dave Bennett and Judy Drummond. We have been busy this fall following up with our Trinity staff. We have completed reviews on Reverend Christopher - Minister, Andrea Minacker - Secretary, Wendy Earl - Organist and Katie Pomeroy - Bookkeeper. It has been a time of reflection with each member and learning how each one works towards our Mission of “Connect, Inspire and Serve.”

We are looking for new members to join our group next year. Please consider this in the new year.

May we wish all our Trinity folk a joyous Christmas and look forward to a New Year of hope and normalcy in our lives.

Keep healthy and safe, Judy Drummond, Chair M&P

**Thank
you!**

Judy Drummond will be retiring from her position as Chair of Ministry and Personnel after many years of dedicated service. Our heartfelt thanks go out to her for her guidance and leadership over her time in the role.

The Communication Team on behalf of all your friends at Trinity

Trinity’s Communication Team

would like to thank everyone for watching our Sunday Service on Facebook, for reading, liking and sharing our Facebook posts and for enjoying and sharing this copy of The Communicator.

We wish you all a safe happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Chris, Arlene, Mary, Daisy and Peter



Board of Trustees - Bell Avenue Property Update

As you most likely know, Council and Trinity’s Congregation have agreed to attempt to sell the property we own on Bell Avenue. There was a time when we thought to expand into this location however that is no longer a necessity.

In order to ensure a fair process, the Board of Trustees will offer the opportunity to local real estate companies to submit an application to be the listing agency for the sale of the property on Bell Avenue. This will allow the Board of Trustees to exercise due diligence and to select the best fitting agency. Council has agreed with this approach. Trustees will have the letter reviewed by Lawyer, Greg Fournier and Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council to ensure all is in order before proceeding with the distribution of the letter.

Bob Swan and the Trustees



Spiritual Leadership

The Spiritual Leadership Team is very happy to have returned to in-house services. We are so thankful to Bill Dickson for providing our weekly audio-visual recording and streaming. Marguerite has been a great help before and after services keeping our Sanctuary in order. Thanks to John, Bud, Hugh, Mike, Jan and Cynthia for helping with the lift.

We continue to support **The Rainbow Sabbath** on the Second Friday of every month. Allies have been able to meet with members of the LGBTQ+ community and engage in a wonderful educational program. We look forward to continuing this relationship.

Thanks to Norma's hard work we have been able to continue delivery of packages to each of our **Sunday School children**. If you know of anyone who would be interested in receiving a package, please let one of our team or the office know at 613-283-4444. Please keep in mind, as well, that we are still in need of Sunday School teachers so we can return to in house Sunday School.

We are planning on starting a **Confirmation class** in the new year, if you know of anyone who would be interested in attending, please let Reverend Christopher know. minister@trinityunitedsf.ca Confirmation usually takes place from grade 7 to adulthood.

Bible Study takes place on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the Upper

Room and virtually. Please email secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca if you would like the link. We would love to have you join us. For the month of December, we have paused our bible study to work on an Advent DVD Study called "The Light of The World".

The **Book Study** "The Sensible Shoes" continues every Monday at 1 p.m. If you wish to listen to the chapter we are discussing, we listen to it Monday morning at 9:30.

We are continuing with our regular communion schedule. There will be **Early Communion** on the second Sunday of each month at 9:00 am. You are welcome to use the pre-packaged communion juice and bread or you can bring your own from home.

On behalf of the entire Spiritual Leadership Team, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

Your Spiritual Leadership Team Chair, Heather Quinn and team, Rev. Christopher Ryan, Wendy Stokes-Earl, Norma Wrightly, Betty Lou Kempt, Susan Newport, Ann Marleau

Spiritual Leadership

From the Treasurer



2021 is coming to an end and it is that time of year where I provide my Treasurer's report for the Christmas edition of the Communicator. So, I thought I would look back to my report in the Thanksgiving Communicator.

At that time, I reported the following financial picture.

As of August 2021, Revenue \$132,087.08 less Expenses \$163,415.15 equals a deficit of \$-31,328.07.

For the current Communicator, I am reporting the following financial picture.

As of November 15, 2021, Revenue \$184,861.48 less Expenses \$207,374.10 equals a deficit of \$22,612.62.

A good portion of this deficit decline can be attributed to Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) along with a very successful geranium and compost fundraiser.

I am afraid, we are looking at a deficit for 2021 unless we have a Christmas miracle!

If you could please remember Trinity during this Christmas season, just maybe, we can turn this financial picture around.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! Diane Bennett, Treasurer

Donations to Trinity can be made from our website or by following this link,

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/28301>



Stewardship & Finance Team is looking for a **Fundraising Coordinator** who will help with planning fundraising events. This person would harvest the ideas and coordinate folks to implement the activities. It is an organizational position and does not mean that the coordinator takes the lead on any projects. For more information contact Jan Montgomery:

stewardship@trinityunitedsf.ca

or through the church office at:

secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca

Ministry & Personnel Team is looking for **two members** to sit on this Team. Responsibilities of this Team can be found on the [United Church of Canada website](#). There is a particularly helpful Handbook available there. Judy Drummond, retiring Chair of the Team, could also provide some guidance and information at:

jjdrum@xplornet.com

Communications Team is looking for **assistance in our A/V production**. Full training in this position is provided and once trained it would require sharing responsibility of recording / livestreaming the service with our current volunteer. Please contact Bill at

thefourdicksons@gmail.com

Our children are our future and our church requires **Sunday School Teachers** for our children and youth. Please email spiritual_leadership@trinityunitedsf.ca for information.



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Outreach and Social Justice

We continue to support **Rainbow Sabbath** on the second Friday monthly. Allies have been able to meet with members of the LGBTQ+ community in a wonderful educational and supportive program. We look forward to continuing this relationship and seeing how the program evolves.

In the month of November, a **Book Club** was formed to read and discuss "Me & White Supremacy; Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor" by Layla F. Saad. It was attended by both Trinity and Community members. The difficult work of acknowledging and working on anti-racism is an ongoing process. Those of us who participated in this Book Club encourage others to read this difficult but important work.

Lanark Drum Circle is a traditional Indigenous drum circle who gather to share songs and teachings. All are welcome with an open heart. There are extra hand drums to share during circle. There is no cost. The Drum Circle has resumed and is on the 2nd Sunday monthly at 1:00 pm in the gym.

United Church Women

Cookie Sales After Church - The Kitchen Coordinators and helpers are selling cookies by the dozen after church on December 5, 12 and 19. There will be many delicious varieties. This will be a free-will offering and all funds raised will go to the life and work of Trinity United Church. So, mark your calendars and be ready to buy some **scrumdelicious** cookies.



Christmas Wreaths were sold again this year by the UCW. We sold 90 wreaths this year and all proceeds will go to the life and work of Trinity. Thank you to all who contributed.

December 6th Trinity hosted a service to commemorate the **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**. This annual service is coordinated through the Smiths Falls Women's Inter-Church group.

Thank you for all who donated items for our annual collection of goods for **Lanark County Interval House**.

Thanks to Betty Lou and Cynthia who organized the **UCW table at the Smiths Falls Hospital Auxiliary Craft Fair** at the Settlers Ridge Mall. We are grateful to all those who donated and / or purchased food and crafts.

NEW!

In 2021 the decision was made to amalgamate **The Friendship and New Horizons Units of the UCW**. We are now called Trinity United Church Women and all are welcome to attend. This new group is working out the details of when they meet. Please watch the bulletin and Facebook for details.



HEALING PATHWAY



“The Healing Pathway enables people to develop the gifts and skills of healing within the Christian tradition. The Healing Pathway practitioner serves as a vessel of God’s grace and healing energy. Practitioners are not the source of the healing energy; they are merely the instrument. The aim of healing is to restore balance and harmony within the energy system and thus enable the self-healing of the individual.” (healingpathway.ca)

The Healing Pathway Team humbly accepts this mission with joy, love and gratitude. We continue to offer Distance Healing at specific times (2nd and 4th Wednesday each month on Zoom) and by request (telephone, Zoom, or simple prayer). Regular in-person, hands-on sessions will not resume while uncertainty around Covid variants and the long-term effectiveness of the vaccines continues.

We send out a reminder email (which includes suggestions on how to participate on your own or through Zoom) the day before each Distance H.P. Circle.

Private Distance Healing Pathway sessions continue to be available to anyone at mutually convenient times. Those who have taken advantage of this option (whether suffering physical and/or mental-emotional/spiritual issues) have been pleasantly surprised by the depth of the experience.

Christmas may be a difficult time for you. If so, feel free to reach out. We would be happy to be of service in helping you establish a healing connection to Source... connection that can restore, rebalance and renew. All requests are, of course, confidential. If you wish to be on our “reminder” mailing list for the biweekly Zoom Circle and/or wish to receive a private distance session or more information, contact the Church Office, or get in touch with Carolyn Lunn at trinitysmithsfallshealingpathway@yahoo.com.

Wishing you Healing Light and Blessings!

Trinity Healing Pathway Team: Rev. Christopher Ryan, Carolyn Lunn, Norma Wrightly, Betty Lou Kempt, and Linda Stronski (in partnership with Barb Loynes and Dawn Best of St. Paul’s United, Perth).

Trinity’s Christmas Season Services

December 12, 2021 - White Gift Sunday

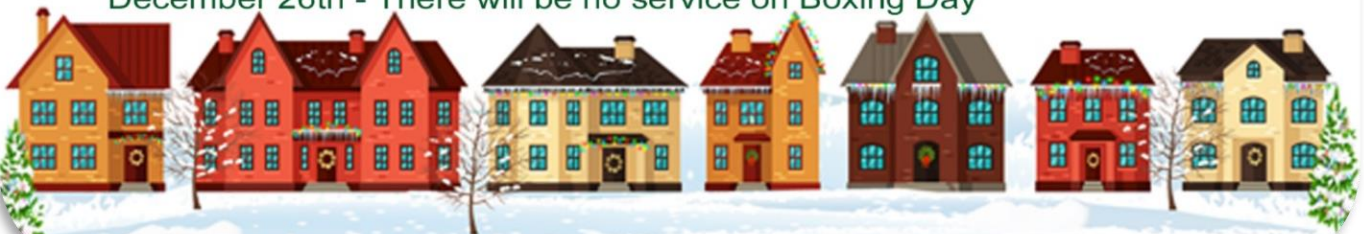
December 21, 2021 - Blue Christmas Service

December 24th at 7:30 pm - Family Christmas Eve Service

December 24th at 10:30 pm - Christmas Eve Service with Communion

There will be a Childrens Service available virtually, on our Facebook Page

December 26th - There will be no service on Boxing Day





Please note: This is the United Church of Canada's Christmas Message from last year. He does not have this years available yet. It is however, still very appropriate for this year so we thought we would include it.

Moderator's Christmas Message 2020

Transcript of Videotaped Message

Hello. I'm Richard Bott, Moderator of The United Church of Canada. I have something that I would like to say to everyone today: Merry Christmas! Really. Merry Christmas.

In November, when I wrote and recorded this message, no one knew what Christmas would look like due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Would there be more restrictions, or would some restrictions be lifted? Would we be able to reunite with our faith communities, or even with our extended families, or would these gatherings be possible only online or by phone? No one knew.

But now, as you are listening, I'll bet it's pretty obvious. I'm guessing that some aspects of this Christmas will be quite different, while other things will be the same. But, in the midst of all of that, I want to ask you: How are you? How are you on this holy day? I hope that you are finding times of joy—moments when the love of God shines through the clouds that have appeared this year.

The story of Jesus' birth is not completely a beautiful one. From angels who appear, saying, "Don't be afraid!"; to Mary's choice to accept her pregnancy; to Joseph's wondering if he should remain with Mary; to their long march to Bethlehem; to the even longer trip to Egypt to escape the authorities—the birth of Jesus was not easy! On the contrary.

But, in the midst of all these difficulties, the beautiful, amazing, and immense love of God was made tangible in a tiny little baby, a newborn child. "Unto you is born, this day, in the city of David, a child, who is the Christ!"

The joy of God, with the creation of God.

How did John say it? "Indeed, God did not send God's Son into the world to condemn the world, but sent him to save the world." The love of God, in a touchable form, here to help us heal our brokenness. Alleluia!

So, I'd invite you, sing the Christmas carols (even if you don't think you can sing!). Tell the story of Jesus' birth with your friends or family—at home if it's safe, or from a distance if needful.

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A Christmas Word Search from Trinity to PUZZLE over

Z U D U M C M E I B D T S A E F N W S D D E H N U W O Y H X
P H E X E C E P S A O G T E S Y Z B V I M U N D O Q I T Q H
Z W S J R A E L E N T H F R C A E Y S B U E V A E E B I M O
Y X S H R Q F R E S E B I G J T M G M T B T H N U M L V Y M
J P E Q Y E B R M B Z C G X H J O C W D H O X G E L F I M R
Q V L F R R C E V Z R K N L Z H P P G X C R R E S G S T Y H
I W B S E U A A D S P A E I K T J Q N M N A E L L I F A R H
A E I G R P C K E W H H T N K P F Z A T C M B E P W D N R X
W D N T U Z V A F P E Q X E O N H J P L K P H G K L T Q H R
P I A J C H R F N M I C O O S G A Z V J R O Q P A I F R E T
G Y A V P J Z R C H R I S T M A S R Q D L I F S G Q N N A T
J E Y B O J E S V N N P O U R H P G F L J H J N S Y R G L M
I R L P J I X L O U B C A R O L S Z Y N K R I O N M W U S V
Y T V F N K T R N I A E H W F I D S A K T K H L V G T I V U
B Y R D W T H A T X D N L S N O S F L K C H F C U Z B D Q N
I R E J J P M H I R O P R I W P Z L A O J A Y F Z S H Z Z F
L E M W L W I S E M E N N M E R E O T E L T S I M U W H B V
R S A O R N A M E N T S S J U V J S T U A Z U U I S V I P X
I H D U F N T N Y C H T Q I T E E B G Y G I K H G E D R I U
Y U Z U G Y Q M K O S L D J C M J E Y N D A H N T J U E N G
R Y V P L C H R Q K B Z A L O O L W Q M L C T Q K L K H M N
Q W L I A P Q U U O M P A U Y G T T X S N O R H L X Q T B R
L X M L D C U D E F O D U M N O C D T T N C Z L X G J A Y U
C A B O O P W Q I E C F U I F W Z F H Y V A T N A S E G G W
F R D U U J F J U F S S J M X Y R A O C A T M Q Q Y A L O K
D B Y Y R Z C M T T E G B N E D Q Z H K G J D P Y K W N C O
X E P O H K I R I A Z E H S J V Z T O U V S M R E K Z C N W
N Y Z S V Q F H U S Y F R T Z A O L H A S R N V A S T T D E
X M O H I D Z T E C H L L T T B M L O Q L Z N P D Z Z R B O
K B M H E U L M C M K U Y U K F J W H I X Y A A M M O L L X



angel
blessed
christmas
feast
gifts
holly
jingle
love
myrrh
ornaments
rudolph
threekings

believe
carols
elf
frankincense
gingerbread
hope
jolly
merry
nativity
peace
santa
tree

bethlehem
celebrate
family
gather
hohoho
jesus
joy
mistletoe
noel
reindeer
stocking
wisemen

