



First Sunday of Advent - C
3 December, 2023

“When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.”

Isaiah 64:3

Welcome and announcements

Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.

– Trinity is an Affirming Congregation

We continue to pray for those who were impacted by the legacy of Residential Schools.

Our building is open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday (Stat holidays on Mondays, the office is closed).

In person Sunday School is the 2nd and last Sunday of each month

Smiths Falls Community Food Bank appreciates donations.

The Christmas Offering envelopes are now available on the front table.

UCW are selling cookies for minimum donation of \$5 or more for a container of cookies following the morning service.

16 Days of Activism 2023 – November 25 to December 10th

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on November 25th, the International Day for the elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until December 10th, Human Rights Day.

Chair Exercise – will be **cancelled** starting Monday, November 27th and will not start again until possibly late January or early February of 2024. Those who have been attending will be contacted when a date has been determined.

UCW meeting – Monday, December 4th at 9:30 am followed by a pot luck lunch - We will be planning our 2024 Budget and holding an election for position of President, Vice-President and Secretary.

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women – December 6th – 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in the Church Hall at Trinity United Church hosted by the Smiths Falls Women's Inter-church Group. It has been over 30 years since the murder of 14 young women at Polytechnique Montréal (December 6, 1989). This act of violent misogyny shook our country and led Parliament to designate December 6 as The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Please join us as we mourn their loss and remember their lives, and we reaffirm our commitment to fight the hatred that led to this tragedy, and the misogyny that still exists today. All are welcome! In addition, there is also a Vigil at **6 p.m.** in the park outside of Crystal Palace in Perth sponsored by the Lanark County Interval House.

Falls Food Hub Campaign Launch – December 7th

Meet us to see our future site at 6:30 pm located at 41 Chambers St., Smiths Falls. Followed by drinks, nibbles and conversation at 7 p.m. at Lockmaster Taphouse, 32 Beckwith St. South. Food \$10, cash bar
RSVP to ramsey@thetablecfc.org, or by phone #613-267-6428, Ext. 108.

White Gift Sunday – December 10th – In keeping with our inclusive dedication, please “wrap” your gift and on the tag simply state the “item” and what age group the gift is suitable for. Let’s keep gender out of it.

Advent Walk – Sunday, December 10th, 4:30 p.m. – note the date change above as there was an error in last week’s bulletin. Join in this Advent Tradition where we journey from church to church hearing the Advent Scriptures. We start at St. Francis de Sales and make our way to Trinity United, Westminster Presbyterian and end at St. John’s Anglican.

Note from Property Team – Please remember to advise someone on the property team if food or drink is spilled on the carpet, and you are unable to completely remove the spot. This will ensure it can be cleaned in a timely manner. With our thanks!

Christmas Cards are set up in the Fellowship Hall for signing. There are also packages of cards for sale.

Lanark Interval House – We continue to pack a parcel for Interval House for Christmas. Unopened personal items, small gifts for women and children would be appreciated. Please consider regular and fragrance-free

items. Donations may be left in the box provided at the entrance to the Church. Last day for donations is **December 11th**. Contact Diane Combdon or Joanne Hunter for any questions.

Christmas Services – Mark the following services on your calendars!

December 21st - Longest Night – 6:30 p.m.

December 24th – Regular Sunday Service – 10:30 a.m.

December 24th – Children's Services – 4:30 p.m.

December 24th – Family Service – 7:30 p.m.

December 24th – Communion – 10:30 p.m.

Gifts with Vision – In thinking about the upcoming Christmas season,

Gifts with Vision is an excellent way to support those less fortunate such as providing a secure supply of food, fresh and clean water, reliable power, a social support network, clean laundry, and much more. Please visit www.giftswithvision.ca to view the many initiatives that Gifts with Vision is involved with.

Healing Pathway – Held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Trinity United and the 3rd Wednesday of each month at St. Paul's United in Perth. Practitioners meet at 1 p.m. Recipient appointments are 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Please contact the Church Secretary at 613-283-4444 for a specific appointment and/or additional information.

Social Time After Church – Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Individuals or groups are invited to sign-up.

Introit: VU 19 “Kindle a Flame to Lighten the Dark”

Advent Liturgy First Sunday in Advent - Hope

Introit: VU 19 “Kindle a Flame to Lighten the Dark”

Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of reconciliation.

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Hymn: VU 1 “O Come, O come, Emmanuel” (vs. 1, 2, 6, 7)

Prayer of Confession:

Redeeming God,

We waiting is difficult

when the world around us is on edge.

We are impatient,

waiting for someone to make a difference.

We are impatient with you,

waiting for a sign that things will improve.

Forgive us.

Turn our hearts to you again and again,

**and show us how to act in hope for Jesus’
sake. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace:

Scripture: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Meditation: "My Sister, My Friend" (Flora Riley)

Reflection We welcome Erin Lee, Executive Director at Lanark County Interval House.

Hymn: VU 7 "Hope Is a Star"

Offertory:

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Prayer

Offering Options

- On the table by the entrance to Church Hall
- E-transfers to secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca
- Delivery to church office
- Through Trinity website DONATE button
- PAR

Anthem:

Prayers of the People:

The Lord's Prayer - *From New Zealand*

EOORC Prayer Cycle
Paul's

Cornwall - Knox and St.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle Myanmar, Thailand

We Depart to Serve in Peace and with Love

Time for the Young

Hymn: VU 18 “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”

Benediction:

Choral Amen

Postlude: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (arr. Young)

Recurring Events and Activities at Trinity	
Every Monday, 11:00am	Chair Exercise
Every Monday, 1:00pm	Book Group
First Monday, 9:30am	UCW
Fourth Monday, 9:30am	Property Team / Church Hall
Last Monday, 7:00 p.m.	Book Club
Every Tuesday, All Day	Pastoral Visitation
First Tuesday, 2:00pm	Van Horne Retirement Residence
First Tuesday, 7:00pm	Outreach and Social Justice
Third Tuesday, 9:30am	Stewardship & Finance Team / Upper Room
Third Tuesday, 6:00pm	Potluck and Praise
Every Wednesday, 9:30am	Bible Study / Seasonal Study
First Wednesday, 12:30pm	Healing Pathway
Second Wednesday, 7:00pm	Spiritual Leadership Meeting
Second Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.	Christian Community Meeting
Third Wednesday, 12:30pm	Healing Pathway
Last Wednesday, 7:00pm	Council
Second Friday, 6:00pm	Rainbow 101
Every Sunday, 8:30am (Except Second Sunday)	Choir Practice
Every Sunday, 11:30am	Soaking Prayer
Second Sunday, 9:00am	Choir Practice
Second Sunday, 8:30am	Early Communion
Second and Last Sunday, 10:30am	Sunday School
Last Sunday, 1:00pm	Lanark Drum Circle