

Dear friends

As the first Sunday of Advent approaches, the sanctuary is decorated and staff and volunteers are busy preparing for the season in a safe and responsible manner. There are a lot of things we would like you to be aware of so we are sending this newsy mid-week email.

### **Communion this Sunday, November 29**

The online service this week for Advent 1 will feature the lighting of our Advent wreath and mark the beginning of a new church year. We will be celebrating communion and I invite you to have bread and juice with you while watching if you choose to participate in this way.

### **Also This Sunday - Hebrews e-Café – Sunday at 10:00**

That's right, Hebrews e-Café. Laura Rousseau has taken the initiative to arrange our first ever *after-church virtual coffee time*. Laura will be hosting this online gathering on Zoom (program must be downloaded for you to participate). A chance to see and chat with members of your church. Sunday at 10:00 AM.

Join using computer audio and video by clicking this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9542153646?pwd=T0tRODRMLMGZxeWlvNzJsUVdPODIUdz09>

Password: jesus

**OR** Join by telephone by dialling: 1 204 272 7920 and entering the meeting ID 954 215 3646 and the passcode 370976

### **Women's Advent Service – Monday, November 30**

Planned by the women of CUC, Charleswood's Annual Women's Advent Service will be going online this year, posted to our YouTube Channel on Monday, November 30. Folks on our email list will also receive a link to the service the same day. To share this with others you may wish to send the poster which is on our website and can be found by clicking here: [Women's Advent Service Poster](#)

### **White Gift Week for Christmas Hampers – November 30 – December 5**

Our Christmas Hamper team led by Jenna Poborsa is working hard to carry out this essential mission while still observing all that is required under Code Red Public Health Guidelines. Goods for hampers from the grocery list may be dropped off at the church beginning next Monday. Donations for hampers can be made by e-transfer or mail. Information on the program and donations may be found here: [Christmas Hamper Program Information](#)

### **Hope, Peace, Joy, Love – Images of Advent**

As we prepare for Advent, Laura is collecting words and images to go with our candle lighting imagery that reflect the theme for each week of Advent. If you have a picture that represents *Hope* to you we can include in the worship video for the week. Please email it to [lrousseau@charleswoodunited.org](mailto:lrousseau@charleswoodunited.org) **today** (Wednesday) before midnight. It is short notice for this week but the same offer stands for *Peace, Joy, and Love* in the weeks to come. We look forward to your submissions.

## **Condolences**

With sorrow we share the news that two members of our congregation passed away recently. *Marilyn Shabaga* was a warm, kind, and gentle woman. She was the treasurer of our Care and Community Committee and a frequent host at our funeral receptions. She died peacefully at Riverview last week and we remember her with thanksgiving and pray for comfort among her family.

*Darlene Schmidt* always had a warm and welcoming smile and a gentle way about her. Darlene had been shut-in for health reasons for two years or so and was one of the first people to give me feedback on how welcome it was to have church services available online. She said it made her feel like she was back in church. Darlene died this week at Grace Hospice and we pray that her family may know comfort and peace.

## **A Time to Build Up – The 2021 Pledge Drive**

Recipients of our email would have received information about this year's stewardship campaign entitled, A Time to Build Up. I hope you will have had time to read and prayerfully consider if you wish to make a pledge for the ministry of Charleswood United Church in 2021. The letter and pledge card may be found by clicking here:

<https://charleswoodunited.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/A-Time-To-Build-Up.pdf>

## **Finally, Christmas Eve**

I recognize that Christmas Eve has traditionally been the most significant day of the year at Charleswood United Church. We will miss the different services coming and going, emptying and filling the parking lot time and again. We will miss the children's service with its buzz of excited voices. We will miss the music that gracefully stills our hearts and empowers us to receive the true gift of Christmas. We will miss celebrating communion in the dim, soft glow of candles and leaving after singing Silent Night. Above all I believe we will miss the company of one another. I know I will.

We are working on providing the sights and sounds of Christmas as best as we are able with the use of modern technology. A communion service will be posted on our website December 24<sup>th</sup> and you will receive notice by email. I hope you will anticipate this service. Choose in advance when and where to watch it. Call those you would otherwise greet in person. Share the message of God's incarnation in whatever way seems right for you.

And join us in Spirit throughout the season before us.

Grace and Peace,

Michael

P.S. For reasons of privacy and security, most of our children's and youth communiques are not posted publicly on our website or YouTube Channel but rather sent directly to parents and youth. If you are not receiving notices from Rosalie and Jodie, you may not be on their email list. To be included please contact the church office and we will gladly add you. Phone number is 204-832-3667 or email [office@charleswoodunited.org](mailto:office@charleswoodunited.org)